Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-89-148 *3 August 1989*

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SELA Meeting Condemns U.S. Trade Policy

PA0208202189 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1929 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Cartagena, Colombia, 2 Aug (DPA)—The Latin American and Caribbean countries have condemned the trade policy implemented in recent months by the United States, which has imposed sanctions on some nations of the region, it was reported here today.

At the 15th meeting of the Latin American Economic System (SELA), the foreign ministers of the SELA member states approved a communique in which they make serious charges against Washington, which has followed policies that "ignore" foreign trade principles and regulations.

The participants in the SELA meeting, which ends today, said that under a "special legislation" drawn up in May, the Bush administration compiled a list of countries—including Argentina, Chile, Colombia, and Venezuela—and classified them as being under "observation," while two others, Brazil and Mexico, were listed as being under "priority observation." According to the United States, the measures were adopted to ensure effective protection of patents.

The SELA also discussed the position of the United States, which has said that if no positive results are achieved through the bilateral negotiations and consultations to modify Latin American patent, trade, and foreign investment policies, several nations of the continent might be subject to unilateral sanctions.

In light of this, the foreign ministers and experts of the 26 SELA member countries said the U.S. decisions "further weaken the foundations of the multilateral trade system, ignoring the principles and regulations of the GATT."

According to the SELA communique, "this violates the commitment not to introduce trade restrictions that would help a country's negotiating position or that contravene the provisions of the GATT, as established in the Punta del Este declaration issued after the Uruguay Round of GATT talks."

In its Cartagena meeting, the SELA warned that the recent events "place in doubt the possibility of achieving a greater opening of trade barriers and the expansion of trade to the benefit of the developing countries." The communique condemning the United States concluded by saying the U.S. actions "cause serious harm to our economies and create uncertainty in trade."

Meeting Ends, Resolution Issued

PA0308022289 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0032 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] Cartagena de Indias (Colombia), 2 Aug (EFE)—Colombian Foreign Minister Julio Londono, who today presided over and closed the 15th SELA Council Meeting, emphasized afterward that "Latin American unity has been strengthened."

Londono said that "the unity of Latin America and the Caribbean has been protected, and trust is again reborn among our countries with faith and hope." He added that, following this council meeting, the countries in the region will "advance more united toward true integration."

The Colombian foreign minister thanked the foreign ministers and delegates of the 26 SELA member countries for their presence in Cartagena de Indias, and insisted on the need for Latin American and Caribbean unity. Londono emphasized that "an era of change" looms ahead in the area, adding that "we are proud of the unity we have shown."

The next SELA meeting will be held in 1990 in Venezuela, while the one after that will be held in Mexico in 1991. The 15th SELA Ministerial Council today concluded its deliberations approving 13 decisions and issuing a communique in which it rejects the U.S. commerce and intellectual property law, also known as the "bus law." It also turned down Panama's proposal to include a resolution condemning the "coercive measures" of the United States against the country.

The approved agreements include one that asks the organization's permanent secretariat to prepare a draft foreign debt proposal from the countries in the area. The SELA Ministerial Commission will meet in November in Caracas to analyze the draft proposal, which will be presented at the SELA heads of state summit, scheduled for the first quarter of 1990.

The permament secretariat was also asked to prepare a report on the impact the evolution of the foreign debt problem and some proposals suggested for negotiation would have—in the short- and mid-term—on the regional economy.

Londono explained to EFE that "each country has its own foreign debt negotiation terms" and, therefore, the solutions to the foreign debt problem are different. He added that the "minimum point of consensus concerning an agreement" is based on the fact that all the countries in the area "are aware" that regional foreign debt—more than $440 billion—"is no longer an economic problem and has become a political problem."

Likewise, SELA approved plans for its members to sponsor and support the secretariat's participation, as an observer, in the acting IMF and World Bank committees' meetings. Furthermore, Bruce A. Morrison, chairman of the U.S. Congress foreign debt board, sent a communique to the 15th SELA council and stated that "the overall handling of the foreign debt cannot be left exclusively in the private sector's hands."

The U.S. congressman believes it is wise for creditor governments to participate in the overall discussions and solutions to the foreign debt, which he termed as one of the "most critical problems at the international level."

Cuba

Commentary on U.S. Hostage Situation

FL0208145089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1143 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Commentary by Daniel Torres in "Hot Off the Press" section during "Morning Magazine" program]

[Text] Touching on the top story in the U.S. media this morning—I am referring to this affair involving Americans, Shiites, Lebanese, and Israelis, this kidnapping of hostages or the keeping of U.S. hostages and the announcement made by a fundamentalist organization that it will continue killing American hostages if Israel refuses to release an important Hizballah leader. Hizballah is one of the fundamentalist organizations operating in Lebanon. I am referring to 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd.

Israel is practically blocking the solution to this conflict because last night.... [changes thought] I even watched footage shown by a multi-media system that included statements made by Yitzhaq Shamir in which he indicated that Israel was not going to release this Hizballah leader. He was proposing a swap of American and Israeli hostages. That is, he proposed a global negotiation that the fundamentalists have simply refused.

As you know, a 48-hour period was given before the next execution. It could involve Mr James Cippicio or Cicippio, as other international news agencies have said, or evangelist Terry Waite, who is British but works for the Anglican Church in the United States. The two of them have been held hostage in Lebanon, one since 1987 and the other since 1986.

This is a truly controversial situation. The video with the hanging of Colonel Richard William Higgins was shown around the world. As you know, he was part of the UN troops in the United States. He traveled to Lebanon precisely to serve as mediator and was hanged after being kidnapped. He had been kidnapped by this same organization. A period of time was given; Israel did not comply with it. This video has made the world fly; you saw it. Here is a repetition. [Video shows a man identified as Higgins hanging.] At no time is a close-up of Higgins' face shown. This shows his back. Undoubtedly, it is a dramatic picture.

Yesterday, a mini-cabinet met in the White House and studied this video very closely in an attempt to confirm if, indeed, this was Mr Higgins. It has not been verified up to now. This mini-cabinet continues to meet in the White House. As it is known, U.S. President Mr George Bush interrupted a tour through several U.S. states.

Israel has done the same. It has also created a mini-cabinet called a war cabinet. They meet every half hour. The situation is definitely tense.

You know the nature of the Lebanese conflict. This is a country that is composed of multiple faiths. It has different religious communities—Shiites, Sunni, etc. It is a very complex composition.

However, if we look at the current events, we could reach the following conclusions. I completely agree that the United States is Israel's main ally. It is the one that provides financial support. It simply supports it from all points of view—militarily and ideologically. The United States needs to be pressured to reach any positive negotiation with Israel. Nevertheless, these men—Higgins was a UN man, Mr Cicippio is an accountant at a U.S. university, and Mr Terry Waite is member of the Anglican Church. We could ask ourselves if these three individuals are truly directly responsible for the Israeli killings in Arab- and Palestine- occupied territories, if these men who went to Lebanon apparently on a peace mission are directly responsible for U.S. support to and alliance with Israel. I don't believe so.

Since I am against violence, I truly believe that this situation presented by this fundamentalist commando is not acceptable. I am going to remind you of a time in the eighties. When the CIA made up—and this backfired on the CIA—the international hijacking of planes, we condemned this course of action because this is simply having innocent people pay for the sins of others. Exactly the same thing is happening now. It is true that Higgins' death is the death of a U.S. colonel but it was a man sent by the United Nations. At no time has it been proved that he carried out espionage activities. This is also not the case of Terry Waite, a church man, and much less the case of James Cicippio. Cicippio is an accountant, a mere accountant working at a U.S. university in Lebanon.

If things continue the way they are, they are going to be killed for the mere fact of being Americans. This is really not the way to solve the Middle East problem. I want to make clear that this is an absolutely personal view. I believe that the only road for the solution to the Middle East conflict is, as suggested by the Palestinians, the holding of an international peace conference with the participation of all the parties, including the Palestinians, of course. But the path of terrorism, extremism, and violence is going to lead to absolutely nothing other than a crisis and will even give the United States an excuse to invade Lebanon.

At this time, aircraft carriers of the Sixth U.S. fleet are moving to waters close to the Middle East to, according to Mr Bush, intervene militarily if necessary. Obviously, the situation has been condemned by the international concert of nations and there is much expectancy because anything could happen after these events.

TV Broadcast Project 'Unfortunate Precedent'

FL0208134089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Cuba told the international community today that the U.S. plan to use television broadcasts with hostile purposes creates an unfortunate precedent which should be rejected. We should prevent the law of the jungle from ruling in the field of telecommunications, in which the stronger ones prevail over weaker ones. This was said by Cuban Foreign Vice Minister Miguel Brugeras at the plenary meeting of the 10th meeting of the Intergovernmental Council of Nonaligned Countries for Information and Communications being held in Harare.

Brugueras said the U.S. project is an attack on Cuba's sovereignty and is also an illegal action which lacks ethical and moral support. In addition, the Cuban representative said this creates an unfortunate precedent in which poor countries are threatened by the technical superiority and financial resources of superpowers.

Nonaligned Conference Resolution

FL0308014289 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] The 10th conference of the Intergovernmental Council of Nonaligned Countries for the Coordination of Information and Communications has demanded, in a resolution, that the U.S. anti-Cuban television project be canceled. The resolution called the project an aggression and an unacceptable precedent which constitutes intervention in the internal affairs of a state.

The meeting ended today in Harare with a document which highlights that the establishment of radio and television systems, exclusively designed for subversive purposes against nonaligned countries, constitutes an act of intervention in the internal affairs of those states. The final document of the meeting adds that radio and television aggressions endanger peace, international cooperation, and equality among countries.

During the conference, it was also discussed that careful preparations must be made for the third meeting of information ministers of nonaligned countries which is scheduled for next year in Havana so that efficient discussions are held and appropriate decisions are made.

Commentary Analyzes Situation in Panama

FL0208191989 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] The OAS mission in charge of finding an agreement between the Panamanian political forces has resumed its activities. The next step is to attempt to revive the dialogue between the Panamanian executive, the opposition, and Panama Defense Forces [FDP] representatives. However, this goal appears more than uncertain at this time.

Yesterday, part of the OAS mission, including the organization's Secretary General Joao Baena Soares, met with a Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance [ADOC] delegation. No statements were made on the results of the meeting but comments made by ADOC presidential candidate Guillermo Endara did not leave room for doubt. Endara said ADOC is not going to participate in any subsequent elections or in any provisional government junta. Of course, the pro-U.S. politician did not clarify if his party will continue participating in the talks initiated last July. Be it as it may, nothing indicates that a political agreement will be reached. The opposition conditions the holding of elections to the departure of FDP chief General Manuel Antonio Noriega from Panama. This position is promoted by the United States behind the scenes and reveals the U.S. pretense of not reverting the sovereignty of the canal to Panama.

Washington, as the Panamanian Planning Minister Gustavo Gonzalez said before at the SELA [Latin American Economic System], attempts to destroy the political structure of the isthmus nation. The political structure is based on the broad popular participation supported by the social transformation process, decolonization, as well as self-determination. The question that has to be answered now is, what is going to happen after 1 September when the transfer of power should take place in Panama?

If the opposition rejects the creation of a provisional government and the immediate summons for general elections, as the OAS proposes, what is left then? Obviously, the threat of a U.S. military intervention will be more tangible, as it has been said by many on the continent. This is why, the firmest international solidarity with the isthmus nation is essential at this time in order to ward off the imperialist plan.

Compliance With Troop Withdrawal Timetable

FL0208113589 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] In line with the bipartite agreement signed between Cuba and Angola in New York on 22 December 1988, 3,136 internationalist combatants returned victorious to the fatherland in July. Up to 31 July 1989, a total of 15,693 internationalist combatants have returned. With this, our country continues complying with the withdrawal timetable as scheduled.

According to the agreements, the entire withdrawal process of this personnel has been controlled by the UN verification mission in the People's Republic of Angola.

[Signed] Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces

Internationalists Working in Productive Tasks

FL0208180089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Internationalist combatants residing in Havana Province have joined productive tasks in various spheres. Job options have been varied. Most of the newcomers were placed in jobs by the first half of July. Some took advantage of FAR [Revolutionary Armed Forces] minister's Order No 18 and others are going through mid-level studies, such as mechanics and accounting, among other technical specialties.

We found some combatants in Guines Municipality working in the cold storage room. They told us how well they had been received by the center's workers upon their arrival. Another group of internationalists works at the Blas Roca Contingent's Brigade 17 which is building one of the new cold storage houses in the province.

Four Arrested for Illegal Cigar Manufacturing

FL0208124089 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 2230 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Combatants from the Second Municipal National Revolutionary Police [PNR] searched house No 10 located on Holguin Street. There, they found 6 boxes of rolled tobacco and 702 boxes of loose-leaf tobacco, 5 sacks, and a cardboard box containing cut tobacco, 654 outer leaves to roll tobacco, and 63 pesos in national currency.

During the investigation, it was proved that in this house, which belongs to citizen Francisco Crespo Gallegos, there was a small clandestine workshop for the manufacturing of cigars. The cigars were then packaged in cases and boxes marked with different state labels used for export.

Just the same, citizens Mario Vidal Calderon, resident of No 2156 Franpres Street, Vibora neighborhood, 10 October Municipality; Gregorio Hernandez Abreu, resident of No 10 Factoria Street, Old Havana; and Juan Israel Echevarria Bar, of No 1255 11th Street, Playa Municipality were also arrested for their involvement in this economic crime.

During police questioning, all of the accused confessed their guilt and are presently in provisional prison until the investigations are concluded. Once finished, the accused will be placed at the disposal of the tribunal that will be in charge of carrying out the oral hearing and imposing the adequate sentence.

* Problems at Citrus Processing Plant Described

32480190 Havana TRABAJADORES in Spanish 14 Jun 89 p 10

[Article by Ivette Villaescusa]

[Text] Although some difficulties have caused the current plan to run a little behind schedule, production at the Ciro Redondo Citrus Processing Plant is growing at a rate of about 6 percent compared with last year.

Whereas production totaled 7,485,900 pesos in 1988, the aim is to reach 8,193,100 pesos this year, Luis Pita told TRABAJADORES. Pita is the director of this important industry which brings considerable income to the country since its products are intended primarily for the international market.

There are a variety of products but the main ones are grapefruit and orange juices/nectars. For example, 2,611.3 tons of grapefruit juice were produced last year, and 3,800 tons are being produced this year.

Other products from the processing plant are distributed domestically for the most part. One such product is tomato juice; planned production is 250 tons and production goals are already being exceeded.

About half of all fruit syrups, for example, are distributed domestically and the remainder are exported as an indispensable means of obtaining necessary goods.

Reasons for the slight shortfall in production include the difficulty in obtaining cardboard boxes—these, however, have been guaranteed at least for the current month—and the necessity of applying the labels by hand. This is because the Rio Zaza Processing Plant of Sancti Spiritus, where the labels are printed, had to do the work done by the lithographic machine in Havana which had suffered a serious breakdown.

At any rate, according to Pita, the conditions exist to meet the production goal for the first semester: 3,123,300 pesos compared with 2,951,900 for the same period in 1988.

The citrus processing plant on the Isle of Youth was opened in 1978. It was built with Japanese technology and, since it can no longer obtain spare parts, continues to operate thanks to the ingenuity of innovators.

Haiti

Avril Marks 100th Anniversary of Thomazeau

FL0208130689 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Excerpts] This week all eyes are on Thomazeau, which is celebrating its centennial as a commune. [passage omitted] Thomazeau is 37 km from the capital and part of the administrative district of Croix des Bouquets. [passage omitted]

Yesterday, Sunday, the town received one of its native sons, the president of the military government, Lieutenant General Prosper Avril, who was accompanied by the Army High Command and military government officials. They all attended a Sunday mass celebrated on the occasion of the festival of Saint Ann. [passage omitted] Msgr Lafontant was also present on this occasion. [passage omitted]

We also ran into Mr Gerard Bissainthe, the commissioner general for overseas Haitians. He said that Thomazeau was soon to have a secondary school that would even (?teach) data-processing. He said his ministry has many other projects that it intends to set up, in close collaboration with the tourist office administration, so that they can set Thomazeau along the road to progress and development. [passage omitted]

President Avril, a native son of Thomazeau, made a speech. He said that although he was not scheduled to speak, he simply could not go home to Thomazeau and not make a speech.

Avril spoke of the policy of decentralization that his government has set up. A commune should not be exactly the same after 100 years. It should have evolved. That is why he undertook a number of actions, such as bringing potable water and electricity to the area—electricity that can contribute to the area's industrial development. The president also thanked the entire community in general, as well as all the surrounding areas. We have never forgotten our origins, said the president.

Lastly, he called on all the peasants to be disciplined and orderly, because it is solidarity that will rebuild Haiti. Here is an excerpt of the speech Gen Avril gave yesterday.

[Begin Avril recording] [Passage omitted] We looked and saw that there were many coincidences. A prominent figure in town—and I might as well tell you his name, for there's no reason not to, attorney Michel Romain—wrote me at the National Palace. He said to me: Don't forget that it was in 1889 that Haitian President Florvil Hyppolite created the commune of Thomazeau, I said to myself: Ayayay! These coincidences don't just occur like that. We are not going to let the day pass unobserved. We know that we found the state coffers (?bare), and that we don't have many means, but we have to do something, just to show that decentralization is the best policy for Haiti. [passage omitted] Thus, we decided to lay a hand to Thomazeau, in the hope that it might become a pilot project during the time we are in office [applause].

However, I also came here to say thank you. [applause] As we just heard the monsignor say in the church a while ago, we didn't want to say thank you with words only. We wanted to say thank you with action. While saying thank you, we are providing potable water for the Haitian people to drink, because potable water eliminates illnesses from the community. We are saying thank you by increasing the electricity for the town of Thomazeau [applause]. And the electricity we have increased is not just so people can hook up a light bulb, because that is not the only thing electricity is for. We need some industrial development in Thomazeau [applause]. [passage omitted]

Thomazeau has been awaiting irrigation for 100 years. There is a large pond nearby, but Thomazeau cannot irrigate. So we said to ourselves: There has to be electricity there so that we can turn the gasoline pumps into electric pumps so that there will be more water with which to water the fields. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Reportage on Government Free Zone Project

Christian Democrats Reject Idea

FL0208145389 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Haiti's Ministry of Information and Coordination, which is another of the military government's spokesmen, announced on 25 July that the Haitian Government has signed a contract with a company called the Monte Christi Corporation S.A. to form another company to be called Hong Kong Caribe Haiti, S.A.M., Title III, a Haitian company. [passage omitted]

The Reverend Sylvio Claude, leader of the PDCH [Haitian Christian Democratic Party], feels that legally, the government has no right whatsoever to sign any agreement in the name of the Haitian people, because there is no national assembly in Haiti to ratify agreements. Also, says Mr Claude, the government is a provisional government, and has no legitimacy. [passage omitted]

[Begin Claude recording] [Passage omitted] Article 149 of the Constitution gives a president the right to sign agreements. [passage omitted] Now, if the Constitution specifies that a president is obliged to submit all agreements and treaties to the National Assembly for ratification, since there is no assembly, the government does not have the right to sign any agreement whatsoever, because the Haitian people must ratify all agreements. [passage omitted] Now, the Haitian people's legal representatives are the deputies and senators—and there aren't any! Thus, no agreements are possible at this time. So, legally, Avril does not have a right to sign agreements. [passage omitted]

Secondly, does Avril have a right to grant anyone a part of the national territory? According to the Constitution, no, he does not. [passage omitted]

Why isn't there any food? Because the lands are not in the hands of our farmers so they can cultivate them. There is not enough land under cultivation. We cannot produce food. We even have to import rice from abroad!

Now, if you have land to give a company to exploit—and we don't even know what they are going to do with it—why didn't you first distribute it to the peasants so they could grow food on it? [passage omitted]

How can you tell me you are going to distribute land to the peasants! The land that can be farmed, the good land, is in the hands of bigshots: important colonels, important ministers, and important Duvalierists! Such people hold 50, 60, or 150 carreaux [1 carreau = 1.29 hectares] in the Artibonite Valley. And Avril says he is going to distribute these lands! Do you think he can actually do it? Humph! They are in somebody's hands.

And let me tell you something: Avril told his American bosses, who asked him to arrest the criminals responsible for 29 November, that he cannot arrest them. He said this to the Americans outright! Now, if you can't arrest them.... [changes thought] Some of them, some of these criminals, have more than 150 carreaux of land in their hands. Now, are you telling me that you are going to take these lands away from these people to give them to the peasants? You've got to be joking!

Avril signed this contract because he needs to soften up the Americans, the U.S. Government, so they will keep him in power, and to (?pacify) the peasants, make the peasants think he is going to give them land so they will yell, Long live Avril! And leave him in power for good, so he won't have to hold elections. That's what Avril is trying to do. [end recording] [passage omitted]

MDN Disagrees With Plan

FL0208135289 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Hubert de Ronceray says he does not agree with this business of a provisional government signing contracts. That is the role of a definitive government democratically elected by the Haitian people. The Mobilization for National Development [MDN] has set forth its position on the free zone on Plantation Dauphin, which worries the MDN a lot.

This project raises many questions in the MDN's head. Therefore, the party feels it has to make statements on the following points:

First, studies of free zone areas in Haiti should be envisioned.

Secondly, the exploitation of (?an intended) project for exclusively political ends should be denounced.

The possibility of a provisional government's competence in regard to free zones should be shunted aside. Indeed, the MDN says that the creation of a free zone is linked to a nation's desire to attract investments, industrialize, develop an area, create jobs, and improve the quality of a nation's infrastructure, services, and labor. Therefore, the MDN feels that a team of technicians should study the diverse problems of the areas where the projects are planned. Proper cadre laws should be written for free zones which are in keeping with the nation's other laws. The public should be prepared for these projects and the long-term consequences of such projects should be considered. [passage omitted]

This attitude gives rise to many doubts as to the real intentions of Haiti's current leaders, says the MDN. The MDN also feels that such a commitment cannot be made by a provisional government in violation of the nation's Constitution and without the knowledge of representatives of the Haitian people with legitimate mandates. Only a democratically elected government and a responsible government apparatus can make a commitment at such a level on behalf of the nation and this can be done only after the Legislative Assembly votes in favor of such a project, says the MDN. [passage omitted]

That was an MDN press release.

Company President Lists Advantages

FL0208123689 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Excerpts] In Port-au-Prince, last week's signing of a contract between the Haitian Government and a U.S. company, the Monte Christi Corporation, to set up and exploit a free zone in northeastern Haiti continues to give rise to negative reactions from the local political class. [passage omitted]

Here is Rothschild Francois, Jr's report.

[Francois] [Passage omitted] The contract between the Haitian Government and the U.S. company, Monte Christi Corporation, allows for the creation of a company called Hong Kong Caribe that will be in charge of managing the free zone in northeastern Haiti. Through this contract, the Haitian Government has put 1,600 hectares of land at the disposal of this new company for an unlimited period of time to realize its projects which consist of, among other things, tourism, building agro-industrial parks, developing aquaculture, and raising livestock. There will be both light and heavy industries, raw materials, and the production of finished and semi-finished items, plus a free port to (?facilitate) the receiving of (?imports) and the exporting of the area's goods.

(Michel Oriol), president of Hong Kong Caribe S.A.M., which will be formed once the decree on the contract is published in the official gazette, LE MONITEUR, tells us about the project, which he says was conceived in order to save the national economy.

[Begin (Oriol) recording] Hong Kong Caribe is in charge of carrying out the work of infrastructure, the construction work. Let me tell you right away that the company is going to install a power plant that is going to allow us to provide electricity to the entire northeast. Potable water will be brought to the area by the company. There are works of infrastructure such as roads, housing, health care, etc, for the workers. This company has a highly social aspirations actually. Conceptually, the basis for distribution of the shares is the same for both the Dominican Republic and Haiti. [passage omitted] The Monte Christi Corporation has 40 percent of the shares, and the difference is available for the Haitian private sector. The private sector may not only invest in Hong Kong Caribe but may also invest in the Monte Christi Corporation, because that company is selling shares on the U.S. market. [end recording] [passage omitted]

The initial capital of the new company in charge of managing this free zone will be $.5 million. [passage omitted]

(Oriol) says the residents of Fort Dauphin in northeastern Haiti, which will soon become a free zone, are not threatened. He says that they will be the first to benefit, for they will be able to own shares of the company. [passage omitted] He adds that Haitian labor laws will apply to Hong Kong Caribe's workers. According to (Oriol), everything will be guaranteed, for example union freedom. The contract also contains clauses forbidding the bringing of hallucinogenic (?and) toxic products into the country. A violation of one of these clauses may result in the cancellation of the contract. [passage omitted]

[Begin (Oriol) recording] The advantages are enormous. We ourselves conceived of the project precisely to create wealth in our country. What we mean by wealth is a big

concentration of capital. I mean, the role of the government has always been to stimulate the national economy and encourage foreign investment. This project is going to create a good number of jobs in this country. The possibility of manufacturing finished products in the free zone, as you can imagine, will lead to lower costs, and even the cost of articles of prime necessity will decline considerably. Why? First of all, there will be storage facilities in the free zone. Furthermore, we have small vendors who go to the free zones of the Bahamas or Panama to stock up on products of prime necessity. [end recording]

[Francois] In any case, the contract signed for an unlimited period of time between the Haitian Government and the U.S. company called The Monte Christi Corporation is giving rise to serious apprehension among political organizations. [passage omitted]

Firings, Resignations Continue at Radio Soleil

FL0208133189 Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in Creole 1000 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Radio Soleil's administration can no longer look Sister Monique Saint-Vincent in the eye so it has fired her. Monique was the head of personnel and the director of [words indistinct]. She was in her 7th year as a Radio Soleil employee.

Yves-Marie Chanel also laid down his burden this morning. He thanked them and resigned. Chanel's job was to put the news together daily. In the language of the foreigners, his title was coordinator.

Yves-Marie resigned despite the fact that he received a visit from a representative of the Radio Soleil bishops. He was told that the rest of the team was having a terrible time keeping up with the work of the daily newscasts and that they invited him to come free-lance because they couldn't put out the news without him. They told him he was a (?pillar). However, it is the damage done to things that makes those things damaged things. Yves-Marie quit.

Thus, from 30 April to the present, the following people have been fired from Radio Soleil: Jean Coffy, who used to collect the money for the Club 3000 program; Emmanuel Cantave, who was the accountant and [word indistinct] on the Hone Respe program; Joseph Georges, who was the programs director; Venel Remarais; and journalists Morisson Charles, Colette Lespinasse, Marie Josee Casimir, and Nadie Pierre-Richard. Also fired were Michel Favard, from Hone Respe; Lucien Pierre Samson, driver and mechanic; Josue Vilfranc, (?console) operator; Sister Monique Saint-Vincent; and Maxim Phanord, who was the receptionist.

Those who have resigned are: Goodson Pierre, a speaker on Club 3000; (Claudette Detesse), (?secretary); Sister Marie Yolaine Romain, who worked in the reception office; Yves-Marie Chanel; and speaker Nadio Lochard.

There are also people who are absent from their jobs: Sister Lucette, Gabriel Guillaume, and Renel Pouquet.

Among those who have stayed are: Tisse, Dufort, Eddy Louis-Jacques, Edner Jean-Louis, and Jude Jean-Louis, who was the chief operator but whom they removed from that position.

There are people who are still on vacation. They do not yet know what decision they will make. These people are: Jean Duviella and Francois Augustin.

Also, a big boss is suddenly going to join Radio Soleil at this moment of turmoil: Father George M., who is a professor of pedagogy—as they say in the language of the foreigners—at the national university.

Also, there was much fighting last week at Radio Soleil. An operator began fighting with a Club 3000 speaker. What happened? The operator had come to talk, but they sent him to man the console. He was furious. The speaker (?reportedly) began mocking the operator, who punched him. People punched each other and equipment was struck at the bishops' kingdom on earth—that is to say, Radio Soleil.

Group Marks Anniversary; Splits From KID

FL0208174089 Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in Creole 1000 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Excerpts] More than 300 people participated in the big rally held yesterday in Grand Goave on the occasion of the 3d anniversary of the Comme Il Faut Cooperation Group. [passage omitted]

July 29, 1986-89—this means the independent cooperation group for the salvation of our brothers known as Comme Il Faut has been at work in Grand Goave for 3 years now.

For this reason, Comme Il Faut held an artistic and cultural soiree in Grand Goave on Sunday, 30 July, 1989. The watchword for the event was: We will continue the battle against the high cost of living and insecurity.

Three hundred people participated in the rally. Among them were delegates from Grand Goave peasants organizations and representatives from the Coordinating Body of People's Organizations of Petit Goave; People's Democratic Committee of Carrefour Feuilles; Association of Misyon Alfa Teachers and Participants of Port-au-Prince, Fedka; and the National Alliance of People's Organizations, ANOP.

There were slogans such as: Bar the way to macoutes! Down with the high cost of living! Down with insecurity! Long live vigilance brigades! A people's government, the nation's only path to democracy! [passage omitted]

Comme Il Faut held the Avril government, the plunderers, and the blood-sucker countries responsible for the insecurity in Haiti. [passage omitted]

Comme Il Faut feels that in view of all these problems, the solution to the Haitian people's problems does not lie in rigged elections. Only a people's government can satisfy the Haitian people's demands, such as the demands for creole pigs, health care, education, justice, a decline in the cost of living, and security. [passage omitted]

Comme Il Faut issued a press release signed by (Frantz Pascal) and (Jean Boule Belrus) that announces that Comme Il Faut is no longer affiliated with the Confederation for Democratic Unity, KID. Jean Mario Paul, who was in a provisional committee in the KID during the crisis [not further identified], says that he was on that committee in order to properly manage KID, and that his work is now over, and that he agrees with Comme Il Faut's leaving the KID. [passage omitted]

Labadie Youth Protest Repression, Fear Massacre

FL0208150789 Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in Creole 1000 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Excerpts] The Labadie Youth Movement [MJL] is asking for area residents to protest, to rise up against the repression to which they are being subjected in the lower Artibonite Valley.

The MJL says it is being put through the mill by the military in the lower Artibonite Valley. Twenty-two days after four MJL members were arrested, one of the peasants in the committee that is heading the MJL tells us how things are in Labadie today.

[Begin recording] [First unidentified speaker] We are being subjected to heavy pressure. We can't talk, and we don't know why our members who are in jail in Petite Riviere de l'Artibonite were jailed. They (?cart them) back and forth, and are accusing them of all being communists. We can't talk and we can't hold meetings. [passage omitted]

The minute they see a small group of three or four people standing around, they (?rush to arrest) us. Now they have turned a group of thugs loose on us. Those thugs who, you know, [words indistinct] the guys with the red armbands who burned down the MJL's school in Labadie? Well, it is these guys who are going around arresting people. [passage omitted]

[Second unidentified speaker] [Passage omitted] There was never any fighting. We were only protesting arrests made without a warrant. But the lieutenant accused them of fighting the policemen. [passage omitted] [end recording]

These two MJL members who told us about the situation in Labadie issue an urgent appeal to all organizations and to the nation's president and the commander in chief of the Haitian Armed Forces to ask that, if it is not they who have ordered commanding officer (Maxi Maxim) to do what he is doing, then stop him quickly.

The peasants add that there is a rumor circulating to the effect that there is going to be a massacre of all leaders (?from all) organizations in the lower Artibonite. They ask urgently that someone intervene so that this will not happen.

Thomassique Residents Protest 'Selling' of Jobs

FL0208140989 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Telephone report by Hinche correspondent Nicolas Fleuranvil—live]

[Text] We have received a letter from the population of Thomassique dated 31 July 1989 and addressed to Lieutenant General Prosper Avril, president of the military government. The letter says:

Mr President: We see that Thomassique has been in crisis since 7 February 1986. Therefore, we the young and old of Thomassique are taking an interest in the nation's affairs and are writing you to tell you what is going on.

Since 17 September, people have been selling jobs in the public administration in Thomassique. Thus, on Sunday 30 July, Thomassique's governor-in-a-cassock sent three people to buy a job in Port-au-Prince: (Moliere Kanzer), substitute judge, whose conduct is totally reprehensible, who always takes the money people deposit at the office of the court clerk and spends it and then always drags his feet when it comes to paying it back; (Elise Denonce), who is a forest ranger in Mirebalais; and (Pierre Job Fayette). (Kanze) and (Fayette) are both uprooters.

We are in favor of change, but the people involved should be competent, serious, honest, and credible, and such change should not be detrimental to the policy Gen Avril is waging in Haiti.

President Avril, the population of Thomassique is with you in all the struggles you are waging in favor of real democracy, and the population has already given you proof that it likes you. Long live democracy! Down with pigs! [corrects himself] Down with foreign colonialists in cassocks! Down with all the crooked wheeling and dealing going on in Thomassique!

The letter bears 10 signatures.

New Customs Director Appointed in Miragoane

FL0208140089 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Report by Miragoane correspondent Yves-Marie Jasmin]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] On Monday 31 July, a customs delegation from Port-au-Prince headed by a high-ranking employee named (Serge Audate) came to install a new customs director in Miragoane. The new director is (Masner Beauvais), who was head of customs in Saint-Marc.

Meanwhile, (Francis Patrick), who was Miragone's customs director, has been transferred to another customs job in Port-au-Prince. [passage omitted]

Jamaica

Manley Appointed to Britain's Privy Council

FL0308030089 Bridgetown CANA in English 2043 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Aug 2, CANA—Jamaica's prime minister, Michael Manley, has been appointed a member of Britain's Privy Council. Governor General Florizel Glasspole made the announcement. The Privy Council is, for Jamaica and other Caribbean countries, the highest court.

During the 1970s, Manley rejected the idea of the queen remaining the head of Jamaica's Parliament indefinitely. His government was also said to have been exploring the possibility of setting up a presidential system of government as exists in Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana. He was later challenged for allegedly stating that he did not mean it when he swore allegiance to the queen, as prime minister of Jamaica.

Since taking office, the issue of a president as head of state has been raised from time to time, but the government has not yet issued a clear statement on the matter.

Bauxite Production, Shipment Increases

FL0308023889 Bridgetown CANA in English 2013 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Aug 2, CANA—The production and shipping of alumina and bauxite have increased during the first half of this year, according to the Jamaica Bauxite Institute [JBI].

A JBI release stated that 1.98 million tonnes of crude bauxite were produced while 1.94 tonnes were shipped since the start of the year. This represented a 25 percent increase in production and a 21 percent increase in shipping over the same period in 1988. Since January 948,000 tonnes of alumina were produced while 908,000 tonnes were shipped representing an 18 percent increase in production and a 7 percent increase in shipping over the first half of 1988.

The JBI said that the only "cloud on the horizon" for a better performance during this year than last year was the state of industrial relations in the industry. Alcoa (Clarendon Alumina Works) refinery in south central Jamaica lost about 2,000 tonnes in production daily during an eight day work stoppage by production workers last week. The JBI said that if problems in this area were minimized, JBI projections for the industry were for the production of 2.15 million tonnes of alumina and 4.0 million tonnes of crude bauxite which would represent increases of 36 percent in alumina and 15 percent in crude bauxite over the 1988 figures.

Trinidad and Tobago

Nation Reports Trade Surplus With Caricom

FL0208152589 Bridgetown CANA in English 1956 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, July 29, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago recorded a trade surplus of TT387.9 million dollars (one TT dollar; 23.5 cents U.S.) with the Caribbean Common Market (Caricom) last year.

The twin-island Republic's exports were valued at 651.3 million dollars, while imports cost the country 263.4 million dollars, says a trade review by the official Central Statistical Office [CSO]. The review which included figures from 1977 showed that Trinidad and Tobago has consistently recorded trade deficits between 1977 and 1985 when petroleum was excluded from the balance of visible trade figures. With the inclusion of petroleum, this country recorded a surplus of 224.3 million dollars in 1977, peaking at 470.5 million dollars in 1980, dropping to 93.7 million dollars in 1983, and rising again to 387.9 million last year. The exclusion of petroleum saw negative balances of -1.2 million dollars in 1977, dropping to a low of -263.05 in 1983, to -27.9 million in 1986, and then to surpluses of 80.2 million dollars in 1987, and 156.9 million dollars in 1988.

The CSO report said the improvement of 76.7 million from 1987 to 1988 in the balance of visible trade, excluding petroleum, was due to improvements in the trade balances with Barbados, of 25.4 million dollars, Jamaica (21.9 million dollars), Guyana (8.9 million dollars), and other Caribbean Community countries, with the exception of St Vincent and the Grenadines, of 46.6 million dollars.

The balance with St Vincent and the Grenadines declined by 26.1 million dollars from a negative balance of -1.9 million dollars in 1987 to -28.09 million in 1988.

For 1988 total exports with Caricom countries excluding petroleum increased by 153.5 million from 1987 while imports increased by 76.8 million. Overall, imports from the Common Market accounted for 6.1 percent of total imports.

El Salvador

One of Nuns' Assailants Released, Others Charged

PA0208135989 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 1 Aug 89 pp 3, 29

[Excerpts] The Santa Tecla Second District Lower Court yesterday ordered the release of Detective Luis Angel Lopez Zelaya, who was accused of leading the gang that critically wounded a U.S. nun in Zaragoza. Likewise, the court issued a provisional arrest warrant for Alexander Quijano Herrera, Marco Tulio Caceres, Jose Ernesto Campos, Francisco Antonio Ramos, and Leopoldo Alexander Patino. The latter has been charged with firing at and wounding 72-year-old Sister Mary Stanislaus MacKey. [passage omitted]

Judge Miguel Angel Linares explained that the National Police detective was released because his pretrial deposition was not valid. His deposition was signed by only one witness instead of two as required by law.

Likewise, he said the two persons who served as witnesses when the detective made his pretrial deposition did not appear in court within the 72 hours required by law even though they had been subpoenaed. The judge therefore released the detective because there is not enough evidence against him.

The judge added that there is enough evidence against the other five prisoners, and they will be tried on a number of charges. He added that the reconstruction of the crime will be carried out as soon as Sister Mary Stanislaus MacKey returns to the country.

FMLN, Opposition Hold Meeting in Mexico

PA0208164989 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Representatives of Salvadoran opposition parties and the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] are meeting in Mexico to find a joint position in response to President Alfredo Cristiani's proposals on the resumption of the dialogue.

Although the FMLN's Political-Diplomatic Commission refused to comment on the existence of the talks, diplomatic sources in Mexico confirmed Salvadoran opposition leaders have been in Mexico City since last week. These same sources said that guerrillas and the opposition might be trying to formulate a joint strategy toward the Cristiani administration's proposals. It was said the press will not be allowed to cover the meeting, which reportedly is being held near Mexico City. The duration of the meeting is unknown, although some sources said it will last until the weekend.

FMLN Launches Offensive, Armed Forces Alerted

Military Command Post Attacked

PA0208133889 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Two people were killed and three wounded in an attack on the local military command post in San Ramon by FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] units.

The guerrillas attacked the command post in San Ramon with mortars and rifle fire. The fighting lasted nearly 2 hours. One civilian and one soldier were killed, and several paramilitary squad members and civilians were wounded.

After the fighting, our cameramen took these clips, which show the harshness and cruelty of this war, which has affected many civilians. As can be seen, the civilians were waiting to be rescued by humanitarian organizations, but for some people it was already too late, because they were killed in the crossfire.

The command post in Soyapango was also attacked on 30 July, and one person was killed. During today's attack on San Ramon, the civil defense units were supported by the Ramon Belloso Battalion, which was able to gain control of the situation by nightfall. [passage omitted]

25 Casualties Reported

PA0208161689 Paris AFP in Spanish 1536 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] San Salvador, 2 Aug (AFP)—Salvadoran guerrillas today attacked Army positions in at least 15 towns in different parts of the country, causing a preliminary toll of 25 dead or wounded, according to official and rebel reports.

According to the FMLN, the fighting, which began early this morning, is part of the "nationwide maneuver" that started in the afternoon of 1 August with attacks on civil defense positions in San Ramon, north of San Salvador. The guerrillas, who have been fighting the Army for 9 years, named the operation "Everyone Against the Fascist Government of ARENA" (Nationalist Republican Alliance). ARENA has been in power since 1 June.

Today's FMLN attacks targeted towns in San Miguel, Morazan, Chalatenango, Cabanas, San Vicente, La Paz, Usulutan, and Santa Ana Departments.

San Pedro Nonualco Attacked

PA0208210189 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 1900 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Report by Alfredo Villarreal from La Paz Department—recorded]

[Excerpts] FMLN guerrillas early this morning attacked paramilitary posts in San Pedro Nonualco, La Paz Department. The rebels attacked at 0430 and later took over the town and held it until noon today. The guerrillas used firearms of various calibers and destroyed the Civil Defense headquarters. A member of the Civil Defense force was killed at his post, while a guerrilla known only as Pedro was shot in the chest and died while his comrades looked on. [passage omitted]

The situation in San Pedro Nonualco was controlled by the Army by 1215. The toll stands at one soldier and one guerrilla dead, plus an undetermined number of persons wounded. This attack is part of the most recent military campaign waged by the FMLN, precisely when the political opposition of the country is meeting with guerrilla leaders.

Usulutan Radio Station Seized

PA0208214789 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2026 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] San Salvador, 2 Aug (DPA)—Civilian and military authorities in San Salvador have reported that Salvadoran rebels seized a government-owned radio station in the eastern part of the country today at noon and aired a revolutionary message.

The action took place in Usulutan, Usulutan Department. the station, YSJF, is located a few meters from a national guard checkpoint, the members of which never realized what was going on until they were told.

The message, which lasted approximately 10 minutes, asked the people to repudiate the government and its policies, "which are harming the people," and the authorization for an urban and interurban public transport fare increase.

The authorities, who found employees of the radio station with their hands tied, halted the broadcast.

At noon, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation front [FMLN] announced through Radio Farabundo Marti and Radio Venceremos, clandestine radio stations that operate in the country's north and east, respectively, that "a broad maneuver was launched in 11 of the country's 14 departments" to repudiate the policy "of this fascist government."

The FMLN mentioned attacks in at least 11 towns. The heaviest clashes occurred in the east against Manuel Jose Arce Battalion troops, who sustained no less than 13 casualties, according to the rebels.

The rebels also reported an attack on the border checkpoint at Poy, approximately 100 km north of San Salvador and along the border with Honduras, where the customs police protecting the place suffered a number of casualties.

This report was confirmed by the Armed Forces Press Committee.

Army Placed on State of Alert

PA0308004589 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2205 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 2 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—The Salvadoran Army is on a state of alert and has increased its surveillance in San Salvador to counter a new guerrilla offensive, which has caused at least 48 military casualties over the past 24 hours in several actions throughout the country.

Treasury Police Director Colonel Heriberto Hernandez reported that the state of alert is designed to prevent sabotage and the delivery of weapons for the guerrillas. It includes an increase in land and air patrols and searches of buses and private vehicles.

The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) offensive has been launched to protest the government's latest economic measures, including the deregulation of staple prices, the privatization of coffee exports and banking activities, and an increase in bus fares and electricity bills.

Col Hernandez said: "The government wants what is best for the people, so land transportation users will logically be affected by the increase, but businessmen are also trying to solve their problems."

A clandestine rebel station asserted that the attacks were carried out in Morazan, Usulutan, Metapan, San Miguel, Cabanas, San Vicente, La Paz, San Salvador, and the conflict-ridden Chalatenango Department.

The Armed Forces claimed they had no information on the number of casualties or the clashes announced by the FMLN and asserted that, contrary to the FMLN report, three guerrilla fighters had died and five had been killed in various clashes that occurred in northern and eastern towns, and in the Salvadoran capital.

Nevertheless, the Army recognized that two soldiers and two civilians had died, and four were wounded in attacks on Army positions and in ambushes against Army and government vehicles.

The rebels also increased their sabotage activities against the electrical power system and blew up a still undetermined number of structures and telephone exchange boxes in San Salvador. They also announced that they have placed explosive devices on some of the country's main highways. [passage omitted]

Guatemala

Cerezo Claims Campaign To Discredit Governnt

PA0208224789 Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mu Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] President Cerezo says there is a campa to discredit the government and the country. All the nors that I am involved in drug trafficking are part an international campaign to discredit Guatemala i its government, President Vinicio Cerezo said.

As for drug trafficking, President Cerezo saithat undoubtedly the policy of active neutrality is somning that bothers many people, especially in the ited States, and that they are charging us because this independent stance by a Central American preent. The U.S. Embassy in our country has denied th the U.S. Government is trying to carry out this campn to discredit the government, however, Cerezo saichen added that all types of rumors will be heard th are designed to hurt the Guatemalan Governmentpecially because there are those who do not want elions to be held next year.

Despite the provocations, a state of emergency v not be declared, as some groups want, President Cere said today. He said that all the actions that have been ried out are nothing but a trap for the democratic pess. Referring to the assassination of a Christian Dematic Party leader, Danilo Barillas, and the terrorist atts of the past few days, he said that extremist groups arying to destabilize the country at all costs so that a se of emergency will be declared.

The president said that the government is cape of putting the situation effectively under control bese it has all the legal mechanisms. He said, however, t the cooperation of people in general is needed to accolish this.

Guerrillas Kill Representative of Repatriates

PA0208230789 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2022 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 2 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—The rmy reported today that the repatriates' delegate to thuatemalan National Reconciliation Commission (RN), Marcos Juan Baltazar, was slain by a guerrilla grou n El Quiche Department, in northern Guatemala.

The source said that the guerrillas killed Baltazai the village of Tercer Pueblo, Ixcan, on Sunday in fit of villagers, and then fled to the mountains.

The military report adds that the guerrillas also wded Pedro Baltazar, an uncle of the delegate to the CR The CRN was created as part of the Central Americaeace agreement, also known as the Esquipulas II agreent.

To avoid being tracked down by security forces, the guerrillas sabotaged the bridges over the Negro and Tierra Colorada Rivers in Tercer Pueblo.

Military sources have said that the Army Corps of Engineers is repairing the bridges to restore access to the peasant village. Baltazar is the first delegate to the CRN's working commissions killed in Guatemala.

The slaying "represents a new pattern of indiscriminate attacks on the population and demonstrates that the terrorists hate Guatemalans," the military communique said.

El Quiche is the center of operations of the People's Guerrilla Army, which is one of the three guerrilla groups that comprise the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity.

Honduras

Arrest Order Issued for Former Stroessner Crony

PA0208222789 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 2 Aug 89 p 2

[Excerpts] A Honduran justice court has issued an arrest order for former Paraguayan Interior Minister Sabino Augusto Montanaro, who is currently being protected by Honduras under principles of the right to asylum.

Montanaro sought refuge at the Honduran Embassy in Asuncion, Paraguay early on the morning of 3 February after the bloody military coup that overthrew General Alfredo Stroessner, who headed, until then, the oldest dictatorship in Latin America.

Considered the closest collaborator of Stroessner—a dictator who ruled Paraguay with an iron fist for 34 years—Montanaro arrived in Tegucigalpa by the grace of Honduran Ambassador to Paraguay Roberto Suazo Tome a month later. [passage omitted]

It is argued that asylum laws ban Montanaro from making statements about political issues and about issues that deal with his nation and the events that made him leave his country and request asylum in Honduras.

A lawyer said that if Montanaro makes such statements, they could be considered pressure on the Honduran Government to obtain protection. That could affect him, because the Honduran Government could call him and request an explanation and even cancel his asylum. [passage omitted]

For a long time, the Honduran Foreign Ministry, which granted him asylum, did not know Montanaro's whereabouts. Later, it was learned that he had left Honduras several times.

It was never known where Montanaro went during those mysterious trips or the purpose of those trips, but it was learned that Montanaro had at times traveled to Islas de la Bahia Department, on the Honduran Atlantic coast.

A few months ago, the Paraguayan justice system requested his extradition to try him for embezzeling state funds, but up to now, Honduras has not agreed to the petition, because Honduran tribunals are examining the case. [passage omitted]

At present, Montanaro is hospitalized at a private clinic in Tegucigalpa due to suspected health problems, although some lawyers think this could be a pretext to gain time to prepare his defense. [passage omitted]

The Honduran justice court has allowed 10 days so that Montanaro's defense lawyer, former Attorney General Elizabeth Chiuz Sierra, can reply to the proceedings initiated against Augusto Montanaro. [passage omitted]

PINU Leader Proposes Suspending Elections

PA0208215089 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Social Democrat PINU [Innovation and Unity Party] leader Jorge Yescas has proposed to the rest of the country's organized political forces the suspension of the electoral process. Trino Murillo reports:

[Begin recording] [Murillo] It might seem incredible in an electoral process, but perhaps it is justifiable. Is the large number of foreigners who have been counted as Honduran citizens—between 150,000 and 200,000—a real danger to the country's political stability? Could foreigners tilt the balance in favor of a specific candidate in an election? Today Jorge Yescas, secretary general of Social Democrat PINU, made a proposal. He said that he favors a suspension of the election process because foreigners represent a serious danger to the nation's political stability and security. Here is his statement:

[Yescas] I believe our country's security as a nation-state is at stake. What we have publicly said and pointed out to the deputies, the Supreme Court, the Armed Forces, and all the labor, teacher, and civic organizations is this: Do you realize that there are more than 100,000 foreigners holding Honduran identity cards? They are organized, particularly the Nicaraguans. They have children of military service age. Hondurans by nature are reluctant to comply with compulsory military service; however, they will not evade compulsory military service because they have a goal, a purpose. One day, our Armed Forces will have a great number of Salvadorans and Nicaraguans among its ranks.

Can you imagine what will become of Honduras if one day our Army is made up of Salvadorans? Right now we are preparing to lose Meanguera. Some quote prominent unquote Hondurans are already saying that we will not lose Meanguera, because we cannot lose what has never been ours. There is resignation and some indifference toward our national sovereignty. Furthermore, a Honduran Army comprised of Nicaraguans would no longer be a Honduran Army; it would be an army of mercenaries inside our own national territory.

I feel that this should be a matter of reflection and concern for all Hondurans, regardless of to which political party we belong. In that regard, we believe the Honduran people should voice their opinions, that they should protest and demand the purging of the national population census.

[Murillo] Yescas said that in view of this dangerous situation, he favors a suspension of the electoral process.

[Yescas, broadcast in progress] ...or postpone the election date. This is not the opinion...

[Unidentified reporter] How long?

[Yescas] I must clarify that this is not my party's position. Our Political Commission is studying various alternatives. I have personally consulted with lawyers and I have discussed the matter with various groups. The question is: What is more important, defending Honduran sovereignty and our national territory or complying with an electoral date? In my opinion, Honduran sovereignty comes first. Honduran sovereignty comes before anything else, regardless of what the interests of the United States, the USSR, or China may be. We should care about Honduran interests in defense of our authentic national sovereignty. [passage omitted] [end recording].

Nicaragua

H. Ortega: Honduras Needs 'Constructive Attitude'

PA0208175489 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Statement by Defense Minister Humberto Ortega on 1 August; place not given—recorded]

[Text] I believe the Honduran Government has a great opportunity to contribute to a much-desired peace and to solving the problems between the Nicaraguan and Honduran people. There should not be any problems between Nicaragua and Honduras. On the contrary, we should develop means of communication to aid each other and to overcome the serious economic situation facing all Central American countries.

I believe Honduras has a great, historic opportunity because the Central American summit will be held on its territory—in Morazan's fatherland. Therefore, I think Honduras should adopt a responsible attitude and forget the differences and difficult times we have had. Unfortunately, we have faced tense times of friction. We hope the Honduran Government will now adopt a constructive attitude, because the summit will be held on its territory. The Honduran Government should clean up

the country's image. The Honduran Government has been totally subjugated to the Yankees. This stains the Hondurans' dignity, above all the dignity of Honduran military men, who are seen as subjugated to the Yankees. Honduran military men have an opportunity to show this is not true. They are an honorable people. I am sure that our people recognize the honorable [words indistinct] and the results of peace for all people.

* CSE President Fiallos Under Attack

* Allegiance Questioned

32480185a Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 17 Jun 89 p 3

[Report by Julio Cesar Armas]

[Text] "Dr Mariano Fiallos Oyanguren was denounced as a Somozist at the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua (UNAN) in Leon. His involvement does not guarantee impartiality and balance on the Supreme Electoral Council (CSE)." This is what LA PRENSA was told by Dr Carlos Siles Levy, an attorney and holder of a master's degree in business administration from INCAE [Central American Institute of Business Administration] when he related to us his experiences as a student on that campus. Siles, who supports the Social Democratic Party, returned to the country last Sunday with Alfredo Cesar on the private aircraft of Dr Carlos Andres Perez, the president of Venezuela.

Our interviewee said: "I met Dr Mariano Fiallos Oyanguren when he was a professor in the law department at UNAN. In my judgment, the Supreme Electoral Council cannot maintain a balance and guarantee that the elections in Nicaragua are very clean and fair, as the National Opposition Union is demanding, because Dr Fiallos Oyanguren has always been someone who never, in fact, takes fair or balanced positions."

"His entire track record before 19 July 1979," Siles went on to say, "was obscure, hazy, and not committed to the social grievances that were being voiced at the time. He was not at all belligerent towards the Somozist regime.

"For example, during the election campaign for the rectorship in 1973-74, when the rank and file committees of the FER [Revolutionary Student Front] were a genuine breeding ground for the Sandinist Front, Omar Cabezas Lacayo, who at the time was getting his BA, made a public appearance in 'Ruiz Ayestas' auditorium and called on the student representatives not to ever vote for Fiallos Oyanguren.

"In other words," Siles added, "the left itself was mistrustful of Fiallos back then." He went on to say: "History repeated itself in 1977, when the FER promoted a student strike against him, and he came out looking very bad, so much so that graffiti saying 'Mariano and Somoza are the same thing' appeared on his house.

"The student body saw very clearly that Fiallos Oyanguren neither backed their social grievances nor opposed the Somoza regime," Siles asserted.

It so happens, then, that Fiallos is a "19 July Sandinist" who has been playing a very sad role and now, from the CSE, is playing a Sandinist ideological role by fitting very neatly into the plans of the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] to remain in power.

Fiallos Oyanguren's specific function, Dr Siles emphasizes, is to shatter the direct connection between the demands that the civilian opposition is making and the strong-arm positions of the Sandinist Front by making use of the vague mystique of his academic background.

"So then," our interviewee says in conclusion, "Fiallos Oyanguren does not meet the requirements for presiding over the serious, responsible, and impartial body that the CSE is supposed to be; it is mortally wounded by the disputed character of its president.

"The opposition must keep on insisting that he be removed from this delicate position, which ought to be held by a better qualified person than the former rector of UNAN. His subservience to Somozism yesterday is the same as his subservience to Sandinism today," Siles said in conclusion.

* Tunnermann Supportive

32480185a Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 19 Jun 89 p 2

[Text] Dr Carlos Tunnermann said yesterday that the campaign that the U.S. Government has launched through its Nicaraguan propaganda media to disparage Dr Mariano Fiallos Oyanguren is actually a dirty maneuver to sabotage the 1990 general elections, in keeping with the policy that the spokeswoman of the State Department has just signaled by trying to discredit the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE].

The accusation that Dr Fiallos is a former Somozist, when he is currently in Europe seeking financing for the elections and, therefore, cannot defend himself, is both cowardly and historically false, said the man who is also a former rector of UNAN [National Autonomous University of Nicaragua], Nicaragua's former ambassador in Washington, and currently a Sandinist deputy in the National Assembly.

Tunnermann rejected the claim that Fiallos was ever a "miniskirt" (specialist) for Somozism. Rather, he recalled that when the current president of the CSE was UNAN rector, his record was one of opposing Somozism and supporting university autonomy and academic freedom.

Referring to what he called libel by the newspaper of the Somozist Guard, he noted that he did, in fact, have his differences with Dr Fiallos when he supported Dr Alejandro Serrano Caldera against Fiallos for rector of UNAN, but those differences were "academic in nature, as we had differing views on the role of the university in society and on other issues."

"It is true that afterwards, during a strike for academic motives, a student committed the thoughtless act of painting 'Somoza and Fiallos are the same thing' on Dr Fiallos' house. But that was the student movement, because at that very moment a member of the National Directorate of the FSLN was hiding within those walls," Tunnermann related.

In this regard, he recalled that Dr Fiallos was a quiet but reliable collaborator of the FSLN for many years and that he also had contact with the group of "The Twelve." It is a fact that leftist students sympathized more with Dr Serrano, but Fiallos could not have been what the Guard's newspaper accuses him of being, because, Tunnermann argued, "a Somozist rector would not have lasted 10 minutes as head of the university." In conclusion, he called attention to the way in which the local right and its propaganda media are evolving in line with Washington's dictates.

No sooner had the CSE been chosen, and even before they received "the signal," than they started saying that the CSE was balanced. They even indicated that the Sandinists wound up losing three to two and that the only drawback was that since the president had two votes, tie votes could result. They spoke highly of Dr Sandino Arguello, whom the conservatives themselves had nominated in the assembly, but now they are attacking him, with talk of "four Sandinists and one opposition member on the council," which is exactly how the State Department described the situation through its spokeswoman. So if Washington were to praise the CSE, they would do so as well, Tunnermann concluded.

* Ties to FSLN Underscored

32480185a Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish
22 Jun 89 p 5

[Report by Julio Cesar Armas]

[Text] Dr Carlos Siles Levy has offered us new arguments as to why Dr Mariano Fiallos Oyanguren is still being seriously questioned by the civilian opposition as president of the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE].

We have also gone into LA PRENSA's files for information about the elections for university rector in 1973-74.

Professor Roy Hoocker was involved in this scheming and, when the maneuvering was brought to light by a LA PRENSA newsman, was accused by Dr Fiallos Oyanguren of being a "hunting dog" [venadero].

When Dr Serrano Caldera was defeated, he declared that he "had been the victim of fraud and Somozist gold."

Dr Siles tells us that Professor Tunnermann (BARRICADA, 19 June) is defending the indefensible and giving ambiguous answers, because he is omitting a part of the story that sheds a great deal of light on Dr Fiallos' personality.

Serrano was a leftist and harbored the hope of keeping the university autonomy and academic progress of the alma mater intact, besides backing the professors' demands for substantial pay hikes.

Antonio Mora Rostran, the minister of education, saw a great opportunity in connection with pay hikes and promised them "as long as" Dr Mariano Fiallos Oyanguren was elected rector.

Dr Fiallos Oyanguren had thus decided to run with cautious support from the Somozist regime's then minister of education, Antonio Mora Rostran.

Dr Alejandro Serrano Caldera, whom the FER [Revolutionary Student Front] and the leftists supported, was sponsored by Dr Carlos Tunnermann Bernheim.

Dr Serrano Caldera even received the support of journalists, and the labor movement held a large gathering in his honor at Gonzalez Theater on the university campus.

Tunnermann's defense of Fiallos, Siles adds, is to portray him as two persons. While he opposed the students by playing along with Somoza, he also hid a member of the National Directorate of the Sandinist Front in his home, thus playing along with the FER and the left. This is a very different picture from the one that the rector, Dr Mariano Fiallos Gil [as published], paints of himself as a single-hearted man of integrity.

Siles asserts that Professor Tunnermann is contradicting President Daniel Ortega, who said that the president of the CSE would be a distinguished independent chosen in a consensus with the opposition political parties.

Fiallos, Siles emphasizes, is not distinguished, because of his duplicity, and cannot be described as an independent because of his commitments to the Sandinist Front, which he has never denied.

"As far as I am concerned," Siles adds, "Tunnermann's defense of Fiallos is suspect because it leaves him looking bad, apparently because the professor is on the sidelines and in casual politics, since he left his children in the United States.

"I think highly of Fiallos," Siles said in conclusion, "but I think more highly of peace and reconciliation, and his presence as president of the CSE contributes nothing to either peace or reconciliation."

Dr Tunnermann also acknowledged as true Dr Siles' assertions that FER students wrote 'Mariano and Somoza are the same thing!' all over walls at the university.

*** Editorial Scores Economic Policy**
32480185b Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish
21 Jun 89 p 2

[Text] Fostering a climate of "concord and dialogue," President Ortega said yesterday in Leon that he was prepared to take away lands from producers who do not hand over their dollars to him. He added that the bank (which is supposedly independent of partisan politics) is not going to give a single cent to the producers who do not allow the dollar-hungry State to pick their pockets.

The people are suffering from a different sort of hunger, however. The country's economic crisis has destroyed the worker's buying power. There is no money to buy food.

That the government is to blame for the country's bankruptcy is evidenced by the fact that the producers have not received their loans for the crop year already under way and that the banks are suggesting that they disburse money directly to pay farm workers, to buy fuel, and even to pay for any equipment repairs that the producers need to make. President Ortega wants to force producers to abandon next year's output. The president's strategy is to blame the producers when in a few months basic grains and meat are no longer to be found in markets and Nicaragua has to import coffee, cotton, and sugar for domestic consumption.

Owing to the shortages and unaffordable prices only those who earn or have access to dollars will be able to eat. Even cigarettes now have to be bought with dollars. Perhaps this is why the president, who is a cautious man, is keeping every dollar he can out of the producers' pockets.

The government has a split personality, a love-hate relationship with the object of its desire. On the one hand, it loves dollars and, on the other, it hates the great country to the north that uses the currency.

On the one hand, it wants a dialogue with President Bush and, on the other, it refuses to dialogue with its Nicaraguan brothers in the democratic opposition. On the one hand, it threatens the producers that it is going to take away their lands unless they allow their dollars to be stolen and, on the other, it asks the cardinal to mediate and help create a climate of national concord and prevent political polarization. The people, who do not enjoy the privilege of shopping in stores for diplomats and who have access only to domestic currency, are not going to wait until they have to cross the border to be able to eat.

As in Venezuela, Argentina, and Brazil, where there is much less hunger than in Nicaragua, one can see the hunger explosion coming. Although the president thinks that he will be able to stay on top of the grassroots outburst that is on the way, he is going to discover that wealth and luxury in this country are to be found only in the hands of the State and in the homes of its ruling bureaucratic elites, not in the stores with empty shelves that one by one have had to close for lack of customers.

If our government officials think that the solution is to abandon the famous mixed economy and political pluralism and replace them with a war economy, they had better awake from their fantasy, because our economy is not mixed and our politics are not pluralist. If our economy really were mixed and our politics really were pluralist, then President Bush would have agreed to dialogue with them, and Nicaragua would not be on the verge of a hunger explosion and social anarchy in its countryside and cities.

As the unions go out on strike one after the other, as civil servants stay home and seek other ways to obtain food, and as the unemployed masses take to the streets in search of sustenance for their children, we can expect that the president will blame the Higher Council of Private Enterprise, the producers, the democratic opposition parties, the CIA, President Bush, who refused to speak with him, and the whole world, but never will he be able to admit that the hunger explosion was his own fault and the fault of the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] and its misrule. Let this be a warning today, because as the wise saying goes: "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

Panama

OAS Efforts for Tripartite Dialogue Continue

Ecuador's Cordovez Arrives
PA0208184989 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1753 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Cordovez, head of the special OAS foreign ministers commission, arrived in Panama today. He joins the other members of the commission, who are here to resume the tripartite dialogue. Diego Cordovez was welcomed by Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter at Omar Torrijos Airport. Cordovez made the following statements:

[Begin recording] [Cordovez] The important thing is that we continue the dialogue. I use the word we because we have been invited to assist with what I imagine are aspects dealing with the process of the dialogue. The dialogue itself, however, is among Panamanians. I think all the Panamanians showed great vision, common sense, political resolve, and patriotism by sitting down to

negotiate. I think all the problems must be solved at the dialogue. The idea was that the dialogue would lead the Panamanians to a national agreement to solve the current crisis.

[Reporter] The proposal for a provisional government and new elections seems to be the center of controversy. Is this true?
[Cordovez] I think disagreements must be brought up at the negotiations among Panamanians, and they must be solved among Panamanians.

[Reporter] What would happen if the opposition decides not to return to the tripartite dialogue?
[Cordovez] I think it would be unfortunate for the Panamanians. I think the three sectors that agreed to sit down at the negotiations table would regret it, because that is the formula they had found to solve the problem. If they now destroy it, they will regret it. The dialogue has yet to be well tested. We had 2 days of talks that I thought were very positive, but the idea was that when the OAS delegation returned to Washington, the dialogue would continue. Therefore, I do not know what has happened.

[Reporter] From the start you said the OAS could not become an electoral tribunal. However, the OAS has suggested new elections be held. How do you explain this?
[Cordovez] The OAS has not made any decision on the 7 May elections because it has no power to say one thing or another. It is looking toward the future because it is concerned about Panama's situation. Out of concern and a spirit of solidarity with the Panamanians, the OAS tells them: Why don't you solve the problem this way? I do not have any power to issue a pronouncement on what occurred in the past; I just recommend that the sides involved find a practical and feasible solution. [end recording]

Cordovez: Opposition 'Insolent'

PA0308041489 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Statements by Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Cordovez to unidentified reporters at Omar Torrijos International Airport in Panama City on 2 August—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] The opposition says that the OAS resolution is very contradictory. What is your opinion?
[Cordovez] I do not think it is advisable to begin with epithets and descriptions now. It is more important for us to continue the dialogue. I am speaking in plural because, after all, we have been asked to help with procedural aspects. However, the dialogue is among Panamanians. [Reporter] The proposal for a provisional government and new elections seems to be the source of controversy.

[Cordovez] I do not know. I do not know how this controversy emerged. I believe that conflicts must be discussed and solved by Panamanians at the negotiating table.

[Reporter] What would you think if the opposition decides not to participate in the tripartite dialogue started a month ago?
[Cordovez] I think it would be deplorable for Panamanians. I believe that the three sectors that agreed to sit at the negotiating table would regret it.

[Reporter] It is obvious that a call for new elections is the point of disagreement. How should the suggestion by the opposition be interpreted?
[Cordovez] They must settle that problem at the negotiating table.

[Reporter] But the [words indistinct] OAS.
[Cordovez] I think that the OAS tried to adopt a practical position. It tried to suggest a feasible solution without taking a stand on what had happened in the past. It tried to make this suggestion simply looking into the future. I think that there are big disagreements, of course, but the only way to solve them is by talking.

[Reporter] The government says it has the force and the opposition says it has reason behind it. How do you view these two positions?
[Cordovez] Do not ask me that kind of question. Imagine, if I were to take positions. I cannot do that. I came here, invited by the Panamanians. This time, we came here, not by an OAS decision or anything like that. We are here at the invitation of Panamanians, an invitation by the three sectors.

[Reporter] The opposition has asked for a thorough explanation of the foreign ministers' resolution. What is your opinion? Will you give them this explanation?
[Cordovez] I think that since we were invited to help, it is slightly insolent to question or place conditions on us. However, it seems to me that this is no time for anyone to become stubborn, inflexible, or paranoid. However, if we can talk with them and ease their minds so that they can sit down and talk, I am perfectly willing to do that because I have come here to help.

[Reporter] In your opinion, what is General Manuel Antonio Noriega's role in this crisis?
[Cordovez] All these are matters that must be discussed by Panamanians.

[Reporter] If no negotiated and peaceful solution is found for the crisis before 23 August, what can the OAS do?
[Cordovez] What can it do? [chuckles] It can become of aware of the situation and nothing else. These are very serious things.

[Reporter] Waht serious things, for example?
[Cordovez] I will not tell you that; you can imagine.

Dialogue To Resume 3 Aug

PA0208235389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2247 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Panama City, 2 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—An agreement has been reached in Panama City to resume tomorrow the dialogue sponsored by the OAS between the Panamanian Government, the military, and the opposition, following an exchange of criticism between the opposition and Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Cordovez, president of the mediating commission.

An OAS spokesman today told ACAN-EFE that all the involved parties have confirmed that they will participate in the negotiations, which are scheduled to start on Thursday, 3 August at 1000 [1500 GMT].

The first rounds of the dialogue were held on 16-17 July, and the parties approved an agenda of points for discussion, including the opposition demand that General Manuel Antonio Noriega retire from the military command.

Opposition leader Guillermo Endara confirmed that the dialogue will be renewed and said that during the talks he will insist that Noriega retire and that the 7 May election results—which were later annulled (Endara claims he was elected president in these elections)—must be recognized.

The announcement about the dialogue's renewal was preceded by a rift between the opposition and the Ecuadoran foreign minister.

Upon his arrival at the Panamanian capital at noon today, Cordovez said that the OAS mission was invited by the parties in conflict to mediate in the country's crisis, so "it is slightly insolent to make demands and set conditions."

The foreign minister disagreed with the opposition position that it would rejoin the dialogue "provided" the OAS "clarified" the meaning of the resolution approved by the organization on 20 July in Washington.

"I do not believe that this is the time for anyone to be stubborn, inflexible, or paranoid," Cordovez said. However, he said he is willing to "dispel (the opposition's) doubts so that it may participate in the dialogue."

The opposition had warned that the OAS mission must first explain the meaning of the 20 July resolution—which recommends holding new elections in Panama—before the opposition rejoins the dialogue.

The Ecuadoran foreign minister rejected the opposition's statement that the OAS resolution "is contradictory and ambiguous."

Following a meeting with the OAS mission, Endara, in turn, criticized the Cordovez statement.

"I do not not see why a clarification has to bother a foreign minister who is allegedly very democratic. I think he has made a very poor choice of words," the opposition leader said.

However, Endara added, the foreign minister's words were not mentioned in the meeting he held with the OAS mission.

Concerning the government's proposal to form a "national reconstruction government" with the participation of the proregime parties, the opposition parties, and a third minority group, Endara said this is a "muddy and messy junta, and they want to soil us with their muddy mess."

Meanwhile, Cordovez warned the parties in dispute that they must continue in the dialogue, so that on 1 September, there will be a "transfer of power" as requested by the OAS resolutions.

Asked about what would happen in Panama if prior to that day there is no agreement on a "transfer of power," the Ecuadoran foreign minister answered: "What could (the OAS) do? Very serious things, that I will not specify, will happen."

The opposition understands that this "transfer" entails the retirement of Noriega from his post of military commander and the recognition that the opposition leaders were elected on 7 May, but the military and the pro-regime politicians do not understand that interpretation.

The opposition criticized the 20 July OAS resolution for considering the suggestion of new elections to mean "disavowing" the opposition's victory in the 7 May elections.

Endara said that the opposition will return to the dialogue on Thursday with the understanding that the dialogue is based on the previous OAS resolution of 17 May that did not mention new elections and that held Noriega responsible for the irregularities of the past elections.

Speaking of the 20 July resolution, Endara said that the resolution "makes some suggrestions," but the parties in conflict have not yet decided whether to accept these suggestions.

Cordovez pointed out that the call for new elections must be "solved at the negotiating table."

Concerning that recommendation, the foreign minister explained that "what the OAS did was to take a practical stand and suggest a viable solution, without taking a stand on what had happened before."

Although he admitted that the topics of the dialogue are difficult and that there "are many differences," the Ecuadoran foreign minister stated "there was some consensus on important issues" during the first round of the meeting, but he did not specify.

When asked how long the mission will stay in Panama, he said "as long as necessary," and added that "it is important that Panamanians start conversing among themselves, not just with us."

Ritter: Noriega Not To Retire

PA0308010589 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2020 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Panama City, 2 Aug (DPA)—Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter today ruled out a prompt retirement of General Manuel Antonio Noriega by saying that "mandates like that of the commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] and the FDP General Staff do not expire on 1 September and, therefore, do not have to be renewed."

Ritter made the comments after explaining the meaning of an OAS resolution suggesting a transfer of power in Panama on 1 September, when the term of President Manuel Solis Palma and other popularly elected officials will expire.

The resolution cannot be construed as a direct reference or indication that Gen Noriega has to retire on that date, Ritter said, pointing out that the Panamanian Constitution specifies the mandates that expire on 1 September and, therefore, "not one more and not one less" can be renewed.

The Panamanian official contended that "although the foreign ministers have their own opinions," the OAS cannot violate its own bylaws by stating in a document "whether Gen Noriega or any other leader must stay or leave his post."

Ritter said that, "in full agreement with the United States," the opposition intends to block the dialogue being promoted by an OAS mission in Panama so as "to give Washington a free hand to act in Panama."

He noted that "there is desperation and tiredness in Panama because of the prolongation of the political struggle."

Exiled Leaders Form Political Movement

PA0208225989 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] According to EFE, several exiled Panamanian political leaders have announced in Caracas, Venezuela the initiation of a new political movement that is based on the doctrine of late General Omar Torrijos Herrera. The movement is headed by retired Panamanian Defense Forces Colonel Roberto Diaz Herrera and former Panamanian Ambassador to Venezuela Marcel Salamin. Diaz Herrera and Salamin stated that the new movement is democratic, Torrijist [based on ideals of Gen Omar Torrijos], social democratic, pluralist, nationalist, populist, and Bolivarian. The leaders of the movement reject foreign interference in Panama and have stated that the right to self-determination should be expressed by holding clean and democratic elections in Panama.

Defense Forces Announce Transfers, Promotions

PA0308003189 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2322 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] The Panama Defense Forces [FDP] officially announced this afternoon several transfers of military zone chiefs.

Major Anibal Maylin was transferred from chief of the Cocle Military Zone to chief of the 2d Military Zone of Colon; Major Guy DePuy from chief of the 2d Military Zone to chief of the 3d Military Zone in Veraguas; Major Daniel Delgado from DEPAT [Panama Treaty Affairs Executive Directorate] to chief of the 11th Military Zone in San Miguelito; Major Luis Martinez from the office of protocol to chief of the 7th Military Zone in Los Santos; Major Daniel Poveda from the 7th Military Zone to executive officer of the deputy chief of G-3.

Captain Lucinio Miranda was promoted to major and appointed deputy chief of the National Department of Investigations, DENI.

The FDP General Staff appointed retired Lieutenant Colonel Aristides Ivan Hassan Rodriguez to be the director of the FDP Military History Department. Hassan's appointment took place today and will be announced tomorrow in the FDP order of the day.

State-Run Radio Nacional Reports Jamming

PA0308023889 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0229 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] Dear listeners of Panama's Radio Nacional, our signal is being jammed at this moment by signals not related to this radio broadcasting plant. We apologize to all listeners for this jamming.

Columnist Criticizes Bush's Moral Standing

PA0208221089 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 2 Aug 89 p 5

["Fausto's Mailbox" column by Jorge E. Ramirez: "The Princess Is in a Frenzy"]

[Excerpts] Mr Bush is in a frenzy. What ails Mr Bush? He is in a frenzy because a Moslem terrorist group has executed a U.S. Army colonel. The execution is a dastardly act that all decent people throughout the world

condemn. Mr Bush, however, does not have any moral authority to be upset about this. He is not a decent person, and the government he represents is even less decent. [passage omitted]

Can Mr Bush complain about Colonel Higgins being hanged like any common criminal? Does Mr Bush forget that the German military officers who were found guilty of war crimes and genocide were hanged? They were not brought before a firing squad befitting their rank. The idea was to disgrace them. The same was done to the Japanese military officers. Curiously enough, Fidel Castro resorted to a firing squad to execute the Cuban officers accused of crimes against the people. [pasage omitted]

The Islamic world has wanted to show that it did not consider Higgins a self-respecting officer, an officer who fulfilled his duty. They labeled him a vulgar law-breaker, a common criminal. He was not allowed to die like a military officer.

Regardless of how he died, we condemn the execution. However, Mr Bush has no moral authority to do so. Mr Bush is in a frenzy because he is unabale to answer the challenge flung at him by Islam. He has openly admitted it. He cannot send troops to try to rescue the other hostages. [passage omitted]

The Arab world is not one in which the U.S. rulers, with a few worthy exceptions, have played the role of conquerors, exploiters, and mass killers. In Central America we have the case of Nicaragua. We also have the cases of Puerto Rico, Cuba, and the Philippines; We have heard the confessions made by Maj Smedley Butler of the famous U.S. "Marines.".

Here in Panama we have the case of a Chicano general who harasses and provokes us, who destroys our roads and highways with his heavy tanks and instruments of death. He is awaiting a single reaction by us to unleash death and destruction among us. [passage omitted]

We also have the case of Tuturo Delvalle [deposed Panamanian president]. He has stolen almost $10 million of our people's funds, with the blessing of the White House and the church. We have not concocted this story about the missing $10 million. The theft was reported in the U.S. press and by the U.S. "General Accounting Office."

This report might be an indication that Tuturo is about to be thrown overboard, considered dead weight for the Bush administration. This is what they did to Ferdinand Marcos, and this is what they will do to Cuchungo [nickame for Guillermo Endara, opposition presidential candidate], and his gang. [passage omitted]

Mr Bush, leave the condemnation of the Higgins execution to decent people. Do not say a word, Mr Bush. You will be justifying this execution and inciting others in the future.

Argentina

Menem Comments on 'Gesture' Toward UK

PY0208184289 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1600 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 2 Aug (TELAM)—Today, President Carlos Menem said he has not (repeat not) recently offered CGT [General Confederation of Labor] Secretary General Saul Ubaldini the post of Argentine representative to the ILO in Geneva. Menem also expressed his "surprise" over some reports about his alleged offer to Ubaldini.

Asked about some reports that he will pardon military officers involved in the struggle against subversion and who are currently under arrest, Menem said: "People must take these reports as mere rumors."

Menem said this during a breakfast meeting held this morning with a group of journalists accredited to Government House. Also present at the breakfast meeting were Labor Minister Jorge Triaca, Public Works Minister Jose Dromi, and Presidential Spokesman Humberto Toledo. [passage omitted]

Asked about the recent decision to lift trade restrictions on imports from Great Britain, President Menem said "this is just one step. By doing this, we are now on equal terms with Great Britain because the United Kingdom lifted economic restrictions 3 years ago."

Menem explained that this decision was made in order to avoid having "trade relations handled through third countries." He said that through the elimination of a mediator the country will save currency.

After stating that the lifting of trade restrictions on imports from Great Britain may also be interpreted "as a gesture", Menem admitted that the issue of the cessation of hostilities is being handled differently, through diplomatic channels, because he said: "we will not undermine the Malvinas sovereignty issue." Speaking about the cessation of hostilities, he said: "this issue must be discussed." [passage omitted]

Cavallo on Lifting Restrictions

PY0208162589 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1130 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 2 Aug (NA)—The Argentine Government has lifted the restrictions—which were implemented in 1982—on imports from and on the financing for exports to Great Britain and its dependencies. This move by the Argentine Government is in keeping with its strategy of resuming diplomatic relations with Great Britain through the establishment of an "umbrella" that would freeze the sovereignty issue over the Malvinas Islands.

In an impromptu news conference, Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo last night said that "this is the only unilateral step we can take." He noted, however, that Great Britain had lifted trade restrictions 2 or 3 years ago.

Asked if Argentina will also resume regular air and maritime transport services, among other pending issues, Cavallo said: "This is something we can achieve if there are mutually satisfactory conditions."

Cavallo added: "We are willing to move toward complete normalization if our rights over, and interests in, the Malvinas Islands (?are preserved)."

Cavallo said: "For our part, we do not object to Great Britain trying to preserve the rights that it believes it has." [passage omitted]

Cavallo noted that "Margaret Thatcher's government took a similar action some time ago." He said that this action by the Argentine Government "is a gesture in the direction outlined by President Carlos Menem" to seek agreements on the idea that "the sovereign rights should be preserved, and that they should not be adversely affected."

Cavallo said: "There are no direct negotiations, but we are working on feasible ideas."

He reiterated that in any future progress or contact with the British Government we will make sure that "that our sovereign rights are preserved, that they are not adversely affected."

Cavallo added: "We have a regular channel through [two] nations and a friendly channel through a third nation (the United States), as well as the unofficial efforts of other nations which are willing to help us overcome our disagreements. All these channels and efforts have been instrumental in promoting rapprochement between Argentina and Great Britain."

Cavallo noted that "Brazil represents Argentina and Switzerland represents Great Britain." He also emphasized "the good offices of the United States on topics such as fishing and ways to avoid incidents in the disputed area of the Atlantic Ocean."

Cavallo made it clear that Argentina does not seek "either arbitration by a third party or a shared mandate." He said that no steps are being taken to arrange "an immediate meeting with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher." He noted that although there is still nothing about these specific topics, they can become the subjects of varying, resourceful ideas and proposals."

Cavallo added: "The dispute remains unresolved, and we uphold our conviction about our sovereign rights, which we believe will ultimately prevail. For the time being, we are seeking ways to overcome the economic

crisis that is affecting the Argentine people, formulas to promote economic growth, and to remove stumbling blocks in our foreign policy."

President Announces Official Appointments

Presidential Aides

PY0208205289 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 1 Aug 89 p 12

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Yesterday President Menem named his ad honorem aides with the rank of state secretaries. They are Jose Rodriguez, president of SMATA [Trade Union of Mechanics and Related Automotive Transportation Workers] and economist Gustavo Caraballo. The government also created the Special Relations Undersecretariat under the jurisdiction of the Foreign Relations and Worship Ministry. This new position will be headed by Alfredo Karin Yoma, who will have direct links with Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo.

The decree appointing the new officials emphasizes "the need for operational changes, seeking to improve issues related to special relations that deserve high political consideration."

The government also appointed Julio Cesar Allende deputy director of protocol of the Foreign Ministry.

ILO Representative

PY0208204689 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 1 Aug 89 p 6

[Summary] President Carlos Menem has appointed attorney Enrique Rodriguez, an expert on labor issues, as Argentine representative to the International Labor Organization.

Luder Meets Chilean Navy Chief of Staff

PY0208190889 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1342 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Aug (TELAM)—Defense Minister Italo Luder today received a protocol visit by Vice Admiral Jorge Sepulveda Ortiz, the chief of the General Staff of the Chilean Navy [rank and title as received], who is making an official visit to Argentina. Sepulveda has been especially invited by his Argentine counterpart.

The Chilean Navy chief of the General Staff, who arrived in our country yesterday with the purpose of strengthening the relations between the two Navies, talked with Minister Luder about joint tasks between the two navies.

Later, Sepulveda Ortiz held a working meeting with Rear Admiral Antonio Jose Mozzarelli, the Navy deputy chief of staff, at the Navy headquarters, and then he visited Navy Chief of Staff Rear Admiral Jorge Ferrer.

The Chilean vice admiral is scheduled to visit the naval base in Puerto Belgrano, Sea Fleet units, as well as the Navy War School. In addition, Sepulveda Ortiz will be decorated by Rear Adm Ferrer with the May Order of Military Merit in the grade of Grand Officer [Orden de Mayo al Merito Militar en el grado de Gran Oficial] during a ceremony scheduled for 4 August at 2030 at the Libertad Building [Navy headquarters].

Bolivia

Paz Zamora Reportedly To Be Next President

PY0208175389 La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 1453 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Report by Rodolfo Galvez to Radio Primero de Marzo de Marzo in Asuncion, Paraguay—live]

[Excerpt] [Galvez] We now have a telephone call from Radio Primero de Marzo of Asuncion, Paraguay.

Go ahead colleagues in Asuncion, Paraguay. Over. Go ahead, go ahead Asuncion.

[Unidentified reporter] We are now contacting Radio Fides of La Paz, Bolivia. Go ahead. We are listening to your report. Go ahead, please.

[Galvez] Very well, colleagues of Radio Primero de Marzo of Asuncion, Paraguay.

A few minutes ago, [Movement of the Revolutionary Left, MIR, presidential hopeful] Jaime Paz Zamora reported that he has received the support of [Nationalist Democratic Action, ADN, president hopeful] General Hugo Banzer Suarez.

Therefore, the votes of the ADN in Congress will allow Jaime Paz Zamora to become the consitutional president of the Republic of Bolivia within the next 2 days. This would avoid a runoff election during the congressional sessions.

We again contact Asuncion, Paraguay. Go ahead, comrades.

[Unidentified reporter] Do you already have the program of the ceremonies for the inauguration of the new Bolivian president?

[Galvez] This morning, the Foreign Ministry has been making the appropriate arrangements. There still is no official program because this is not a final report but just a report released by candidate Jaime Paz Zamora who has also sent a letter to General Hugo Banzer Suarez, inviting him to form a government of national unity.

Therefore, there still is nothing final. The Foreign Ministry will make the appropriate decisions this afternoon. [passage omitted]

Banzer Withdraws From Presidential Race

PY0208180689 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1716 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] La Paz, 2 Aug (EFE)—The new Bolivian Congress gathered today to choose the president that will govern the country for the next 4 years, from among the three candidates who received the most votes in the May elections.

Supporters from the ruling Nationalist Revolutionary Movement (MNR), the Nationalist Democratic Action (ADN), and the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR), have gathered in Murillo Square to cheer for their congressional representatives.

Murillo Square, which is located in front of the Congress Building and the Government House, is under heavy police protection.

The Congress session was held in a tense atmosphere, given the latest turn of the political negotiations.

ADN presidential candidate General Hugo Banzer has decided to resign his candidacy in favor of MIR candidate Jaime Paz Zamora, after receiving a proposal yesterday from the MNR to form a center right coalition government with equal participation in the executive and legislative branches. The ADN labeled the MNR proposal as "late and unreliable."

The MIR also decided to turn down the MNR proposal made 12 days ago to form a center-left coalition government with MNR candidate Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada as president. The MIR has decided to support its own presidential candidate Jaime Paz Zamora, who came in third in the May general elections.

In the next few hours, Gen Banzer will announce the result of the negotiations between the ADN and the MIR, which may lead Paz Zamora to the Presidency.

"We do not want to shout victory yet, let us first wait for the ADN's announcement," MIR Vice President Oscar Eid Franco said. Franco, like the rest of his party colleagues, was unable to hide his satisfaction at the possibility that Paz Zamora might be the next president.

The current Bolivian president, Victor Paz Estenssoro, presided over his last Cabinet meeting during which he was given a present.

The present was accompanied by a message which states: "You, dear president, currently represent a culture, the memory of the country, and its people."

Christian Democrats, ADN Support Paz Zamora

PY0208201489 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1917 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] La Paz, 2 Aug (EFE)—Nationalist Democratic Action (ADN) leader Hugo Banzer Suarez today announced that his party and the Christian Democratic Party have both decided to support the presidential candidacy of Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) leader Jaime Paz Zamora. The two parties also decided to support a cogovernment system with Paz Zamora.

During a press conference, Banzer said that ADN leaders have decided to withdraw Banzer's candidacy to let a "new generation"—which has not been influenced by traditional political practice—enter Bolivian political life.

Banzer said that his party has accepted a MIR proposal to establish an "equitable" cogovernment model of "national unity." Banzer also announced the creation of a "council for convergence," which he will head.

Banzer explained that his party made the decision "without preconditions" regarding the "distribution of power quotas."

With this confirmation of support by the ADN to the MIR, it is now certain that Paz Zamora will be elected by Congress, because these two parties can muster 88 votes out of the 157 congressmen, thus surpassing the minimum of 50 percent plus 1.

A spokesmen for the ruling Nationalist Revolutionary Movement, whose candidate Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada was [words indistinct].

Former Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal, one of the leaders of the ruling party, said in connection with the ADN-MIR accord "I hope that it is strong enough to become the government that the country needs."

The Bolivian inauguration and the creation of the new government will take place on 6 August during a special session of Congress, on the 164th anniversary of Bolivian Independence.

Banzer, Paz Zamora Hold News Conferences

PY0308021089 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] The accord between ADN [Nationalist Democratic Action] and the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] was formalized this afternoon through the announcements made by General Hugo Banzer Suarez and Jaime Paz Zamora. The accord provides for the nomination of MIR candidate Jaime Paz Zamora and ADN leader Luis Ossio Sanjines for president and vice president, respectively.

During a press conference at 1400, ADN leader Banzer announced that his party decided to withdraw his candidacy and to support the candidacy of Jaime Paz Zamora, adding that ADN congressmen will vote for Paz Zamora for the sake of the national interest and in view of the danger posed by intransigent positions.

[Begin Banzer recording] I have never been driven by personal ambition, no matter how legitimate. Even more, I believe that it is also possible to continue working as a plain citizen, and this is what I have done. The Pact for Democracy was a historical instrument leading to a profound qualitative change in Bolvian political life. The pact, however, failed because of the narrow-mindedness of old time politicians. We have thus realized that we cannot postpone paving the way for new generations and for new blood—people who have not been influenced by traditional political practice, and who understand that politics is a synonym, not for distribution of jobs, but for responsibility. This calls for proper social conduct in line with the current situation.

Almost 3 months after the general elections, at a time when no one wants to give in and when a personal victory could mean defeat for the entire country, I hereby state that after sincere meditation and consultation, I have once again—for the sake of the fatherland—ended my race for power. [end recording]

For his part, Jaime Paz Zamora, who held a press conference at 1730, thanked the ADN leader for his generosity for the sake of national interest. Paz Zamora, who explained the ADN-MIR accord to the country, promised to maintain economic stability and to improve the situation of the Bolivian society. He praised Gen Banzer.

[Begin Paz Zamora recording] This result was achieved because—among other reasons—of the attitude of Gen Hugo Banzer Suarez. I should acknowledge the full significance and the historical implications of this decision. Gen Banzer Suarez has taught us a lesson [applause] of integrity, of political capacity, of love for his fatherland, and of human behavior. When we seemed to be deadlocked, his spontaneous decision to withdraw as presidential candidate was the key to a solution for all Bolivians. [end recording]

ADN and MIR committees started meeting at 1900 to plan the creation of the coalition government.

'Political News' Causes Run on Banks, Stores

PY0308023689 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] Today, Wednesday, some economic factors forced some banks to close their doors. This happened because of the large number of people who wanted to withdraw their depositis, both in dollars or in Bolivian pesos.

Some banks claimed that the superintendency of banks had authorized them to close. Sources from the superintendency, however, have denied this report. The social security institutions also closed their doors.

Early in the afternoon, the dollar price on the paralell market increased to a record rate of 2.79 Bolvian pesos to the dollar. In the morning one could still buy dollars at a rate of 2.72 Bolivian pesos. By early evening, however, the independent money exchangers had stopped selling dollars and were only purchasing them.

At this moment, the official dollar exchange rate is 2.68 Bolivian pesos, according to the Bolivian Central Bank.

Another problem was the large crowds looking for food at grocery stores and wholesale stores. Some of those establishments also decided to close their doors without any explanation.

It has been reported that the demand for foreign currency at the Central Bank has been very high. Unofficially, Radio Panamericana has been able to learn that the demand was for more than $13 million.

In short, as a result of the political news, the demand today was higher than normal in the various sectors, while the supply dropped, thus paralyzing all investment activities.

Colombia

Barco Discusses Peace, Referendum, Reform

PA0308023289 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0103 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Address to the nation by President Virgilio Barco; place not given—live]

[Text] Fellow countrymen: This evening I will talk about three subjects of great importance to the nation—peace, the referendum, and constitutional reform.

These three subjects are closely related. The government and the country's political forces have given these three subjects all the attention they deserve. They have been key issues in my administration's platform.

The government has promoted very important measures to strengthen and broaden democracy and to modernize government institutions. One of these measures is constitutional reform. The reform has already passed the first debate. It is again before Congress for final debate.

The country wants to and must bring its institutions up to date. Evidence of this are the welcome given to the government's proposal to hold a plebiscite or a referendum, the approval of constitutional reforms during the first round of debates by Congress last year, and statements that have been made by representatives of the people.

Congress and all the political parties now have the responsibility to satisfy the demand for change.

The new political situation favors constitutional reform. All sectors of the population have renewed interest in Congress definitely approving reforms during the legislative sessions that began on 20 July.

A careful study of the reforms bill has shown the country that the changes contained in that bill represent progress.

The changes will permit strengthening the justice system, coexistence, democracy, and the modernization of the state.

My government wants to incorporate into the national Constitution statutes on institutions that are generally accepted in a majority of the democratic countries and to enact the essential points of the constitutional reform bills introduced in the past during the administrations of former Presidents Alfonso Lopez Michelsen and Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala.

We want to encourage and broaden the participation of citizens in making decisions on issues that are important to the country, thus making the state more efficient.

This is what we call participatory democracy. This is what we want to promote with the plebiscite or the referendum on the reforms to the constitution. We want to give the people and the people's organizations the right to introduce bills. We want the workers to share the ownership and revenues of enterprises. We want the democratization of the political parties and the broadening of the rights of the citizens.

The strong support given to the proposals to update and improve democracy has been reinforced by the opinions of such sectors as rebel groups, which have so far stayed out of our institutions. These sectors consider some of the changes included in the constitutional amendments an opportunity to return to civilian life and participate in the political struggle according to the rules of democracy, abandoning the use of arms. The Liberal Party leader, former President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala, has spared no effort to have the amendments passed. Several alternatives have been proposed to expedite this process. Former President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen has suggested focusing attention on some of the subjects included in the amendments. Some presidential hopefuls have mentioned the subjects they think should be given priority attention.

I wish to emphasize the Liberal Party's broad support for and consensus concerning the amendments. A resolution was unanimously approved in the party's recent national convention. Its essential portion reads: The Liberal Party has always firmly favored the state's modernization, a progressive social policy, and opening new opportunities for democratic participation. By supporting constitutional amendments, the liberals interpret the will of the great majority and hope that this instrument will contribute toward expediting the administration of justice and making the operation of the Congress more efficient.

The Social Conservative Party has also made important proposals concerning the constitutional amendments bill and some of its salient aspects. Former President Misael Pastrana Borrero proposed making an effort to find a quick formula so that the amendment article that permits a referendum is passed as soon as is practical. Dr Alvaro Gomez has also pointed out the urgent need to reform the administration of justice and the Congress. The Patriotic Unity has expressed determined support for the referendum to foster the electoral amendment and other amendments.

Associations, unions, and people's organizations have defended the need to reform democratic institutions. The groups of rebels also share the view that it is essential to approve a constitutional amendment and hold a referendum or plebiscite as a decisive step toward achieving national reconciliation. After talking with the members of the first Senate commission, presidential hopefuls, and Liberal Party leaders, we have reached the conclusion that, although no complete agreement has been reached concerning every detail, there is a firm consensus to approve the basic outline of the amendments.

It is impossible to ignore the national mandate, which demands the state's modernization and desires a lasting, stable peace.

One cannot let this historic opportunity go by, in which all the circumstances seem to coincide and which constitute a great step in national reconciliation. That is why I must now make a proposal that interests all Colombians, as well as all the political forces represented in the Congress of the Republic that will approve the reform. In this hour of hope for Colombia, I propose:

1. That the National Congress debate and approve, with the modifications it deems pertinent and legally possible, the articles of the constitutional reforms on which there already is a consensus and where there is practically no resistance. Those articles are on the following topics:

Participatory democracy that includes creating new channels for the participation of the citizens and for improving Colombian democracy.

A reform of the administration of justice that has already been accepted in the constitutional reform of 1979, but declared unconstitutional due to faults in the procedure.

A reform of the Congress of the Republic that was also declared unconstitional due to faults in the format.

A reform of the state of siege—this need has been evident for many years—to make it more rational and effective.

The creation of alternate methods to reform the Co tuion. In other words, the referendum, the constitut assembly, and legislative actions on which there is tically unanimous feeling.

The government will spare no effort to promot approval of the articles on the subjects I have menti The government will send all the urgent messages are deemed necessary. I am sure that the Congress Republic will continue to work with the same dedic as with past legislation and will assume the responsi of promoting the great changes that Colombia nee

2. I propose that once the basic overall reform approved, we hold the referendum as soon as pos which is specifically authorized in one of the artic the reform.

This will allow the government to hold a referendu this manner, the road is cleared for realizing the i tive of consulting directly with the people, as I pro January 1988. At that time, there was enthusiastic port for that proposal, and now there have been expressions of support that show a solid consensus o need for the people to participate in the adoption great decisions.

The government would then propose two topics tha very significant, urgent, and currently needed fo referendum that would be held once the constitut reforms are approved. These two topics are not pa the text of the constitutional reforms, but they indispensable for improving democracy, strengthe the electoral participation of the political forces consolidating coexistence.

The first topic is complete national representation cumscripcion nacional], which would enable the mi ity parties to obtain adequate representation in Congress of the Republic. The minority parties thus compete more effectively to have representati Congress that would reflect their electoral str throughout the country.

The other topic is the basic rights of citizens. We proposed that the constitutional rights of all Colom be strengthened, new principles be included, and effective mechanisms be created for defending rights.

The right to peace, to live without the threat of vio and death, and the laws needed to defend these righ also part of the topic that the people will be asked t their opinions on. This way, the people themselve issue a mandate against violence that no one will b to ignore.

The proposal consists of quickly approving the aspects of the reforms that most people are not pletely informed about. Afterward, a referendum m called as soon as possible, based on the law that exp

authorizes this. Other topics covered by this referendum are complete national representation and the new rights of citizens that would allow us to consolidate reconciliation, broaden democracy, and strengthen the state in its struggle against terrorism and violence. Doubtless, this proposal is good for all Colombians. The country will attain with this proposal the sought-after constitutional reforms and the people will reaffirm their power to decide basic public issues. The process of change will thus become consolidated. This government has tirelessly been encouraging this process, to ease the way so that minority groups can defend their ideas through public debate and through the national congress, including those groups that demobilize and rejoin civilian life. This will also facilitate human rights' protection and expedite the fight against terrorism.

There is an urgency to strengthening democracy and attaining stable peace. Political leaders must therefore make a valuable contribution toward ensuring that these institutional changes take place. No one should overlook the challenge to change.

Fellow citizens, the proposal that I have presented contributes, without doubt, toward strengthening Colombian democracy at an essential time. Colombians have a clear choice: Either our institutions remain tied to their past, or we all actively participate with optimism in building a broader and stronger democracy. Congress and the political forces now have the task of taking the path and leading the state to become strong and effective in its legitimacy, with modern democracy ruled by peace and security, and with the people taking part in civilized, active public lives. The Congress, the political parties, and the government have the responsibility to make the institutional changes that the country demands. Let us take on that responsibility with pragmatism, wisdom, greatness, decision, and optimism—in other words, with patriotism.

Good night, I'll see you soon.

UP Lawyer Abelardo Daza Murdered in Bogota

PA0308034489 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0158 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] Bogota, 2 Aug (EFE)—Lawyer Abelardo Daza, legal adviser of the leftist Patriotic Union (UP), was murdered today in Bogota when an unidentified individual shot him in the head, the police reported today.

Daza, age 40, was a defense lawyer who specialized in the defense of political prisoners. At 0830 (1330 GMT) today, he left his home in the downtown La Soledad neighborhood, and after walking about 30 meters was shot in the head by a young man.

The assassin ran and was picked up by another individual who was waiting for him with a motorcycle, on which they both fled.

Daza, married and with three children, was taken to a clinic, where he died shortly before noon (1500 GMT).

A UP spokesman told EFE that this new murder "does not seem to indicate the government has enough determination to put an end to the actions of paid assassins."

Since the UP was founded in 1985 during the failed peace process begun by former Conservative President Belisario Betancur, about 1,000 leaders, militants, and followers of the movement have been murdered.

Jaime Pardo Leal, former presidential candidate and founder of the UP, was murdered on 11 October 1987.

So far this year, several tens of UP militants have been murdered, including Jose Antequera who ranked third in the party's hierarchy and was murdered last March.

UP Leaders Take Over Interior Ministry Offices

PA0308035889 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0308 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] Bogota, 2 Aug (DPA)—In an unprecedented move in Colombia's recent history, the Patriotic Union [UP] took over this evening the main offices of the Interior Ministry in Bogota and told the government that they will not leave until a government meeting is convened to analyze the upsurge in violence against UP members.

The UP, the country's third-ranking political force, lost about 950 of its members and leaders over the past 4 years. This morning, UP legal advisor Abelardo Daza was shot.

The takeover is by UP President Bernardo Jaramillo, Vice President Diego Montana, Secretary Carlos Romero, and Treasurer Oscar Duenas, who ask that President Virgilio Barco's government disclose the results of the fight to combat the right-wing squads and the "true behavior" of some military and police leaders in some areas of the country.

Jaramillo, who recently denounced before European and American entities Colombia's "dirty war," said that "the UP and public opinion need to know why Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha (one of the Medellin cartel leaders accused of financing and masterminding the murders of political leaders) and other well known criminals have not been caught."

Jaramillo added: "We do not want more bodyguards, but the political resolve to dismantle the gang of hired gunmen and arrest their leaders."

Authorities Find Cuba Map in Smugglers' Plane

PA0308035089 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Report by Jorge Cura, from Pivijay, Magdalena Department]

[Text] An operation in Magdalena Department has served to confirm once again that there are links between Colombian and Cuban drug traffickers.

A map was found in the cabin of a DC-3 airplane. The map shows all of Cuba's air routes.

This operation confirms once again the links between the Colombian and the Cuban drug traffickers.

The U.S.-registered DC-3 was seized only 30 km from Pivijay. According to official sources, it was early in the morning when the plane landed in the field where it was found. The plane can carry a six-ton load and fly directly from here to Cuba and from there to Miami.

According to antinarcotics agents, they seized a white substance that is being analyzed in a Santa Marta laboratory. The substance, presumably a drug, was packed in boxes.

The 2,100-meter airfield used by the plane had been dynamited a month ago by antinarcotic agents and then put back in service by the drug traffickers.

The authorities also seized 4 power plants, 2 tractors, 3 campers, 100 gallons of thinner, 6 barrels of gasoline for airplanes, 3 parachutes, a fair amount of acetone, and a revolver.

When the police arrived, in the morning, the traffickers fled, leaving packed suitcases inside the vehicles.

Antinarcotics agents are searching the area right now because they do not discard the possibility of finding a clandestine drug processing laboratory near Pivijay.

* Meeting of Guerrilla Board Reported

33480240 Bogota VOZ in Spanish 6 Jul 89 p 7

[Text] In its statement, the National Guerrilla Coordinating Board, CGSB [Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board], calls for ratification of its readiness to hold talks with the government, abolition of Article 87 which involves a referendum and a National Constituent Assembly, a plebiscite, a negotiated solution to the armed conflict, lifting of the state of siege, and an opening to regain democracy.

On 4 July, the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board sent to the Commission of Notables an open letter along with the political statement approved by the insurgent organization's fourth summit, held late last week.

Social-Conservative Senator Alvaro Leyva Duran attended the event as an invited guest and reported to the press that, except for the ELN [Army of National Liberation], the FARC [Armed Revolutionary Forces of Colombia], the EPL [Popular Liberation Army], the M-19, Quintin Lame, and the Revolutionary Workers' Party (PRT) had attended the meeting.

Dialogue With the ELN Is Possible

The insurgent summit invited the Commission of Notables to a direct dialogue, something that perhaps will happen soon. Leyva Duran indicated in statements to our publication that he has had more than 100 meetings with representatives of the various guerrilla organizations. He was optimistic about dialogue with the ELN, saying that it is feasible, and added that he will continue working for national peace.

The CGSB's political statement affirms that the decisive factors in the country's misfortunes include militarism and oligarchic groups which are tied to the international financial capital, and are encouraged by the foreign doctrine of national security.

Moreover, it states that "...the unity of the patriotic revolutionary and progressive forces, and the participation, mobilization, and struggle of our people will achieve reconciliation, democracy and the conquest of a pluralistic government...."

The CNG For Democratic Opening

"Before the nation," the document says, "we once again propose to the government political solutions to our national problems, including the phenomenon of armed rebellion, to analyze through direct dialogue the most intelligent and advisable political solutions regarding the dirty war, the lifting of the state of siege, an opening to the reconquest of democracy, and realistic solutions to foreign debt, by a government that is a faithful interpreter of the democratic demands, for full and real guarantees for the full exercise of freedoms, a reaffirmation of an economic policy that would enable productive forces to expand, and the utilization of natural resources to benefit society as a whole."

Support for Article 87

The document calls for direct dialogue with the government and emphasizes the role of the Commission of Notables. It also states, "Since a proposal for constitutional reform is in progress, we propose the abolition of the entire project under Article 87 which, in addition to the referendum and the national constituent assembly, introduces parliamentary reform, to which we would add the mechanism for a plebiscite to convoke the Constituent Assembly to approve a new constitution. As in any true democracy, this would constitute the expression of the Primary Constituency."

Peru

* Political Parties Urged To Define Platforms

33480234a Lima CARETAS in Spanish 3 Jul 89 p 25

[Text] Once the internal problems manifested in both IU [United Left] and Fredemo [Democratic Front] are a closed chapter, whatever the results in terms of candidacies may be, it will be time to move on to matters that are more serious and more important to the country. The time will have come for the leading political forces to stop the petty arguing and work toward making genuine proposals for Peru that have been missing thus far.

This responsibility can be shirked only with a superficial explanation of the collapse in which we find ourselves: blaming it solely on Alan Garcia, something in vogue among this country's right wing. Nevertheless, the temptation would not withstand the slightest assault of memory.

One need only recall how the second Belaunde term ended: with an outcry for change which, while it ruined Javier Alva Orlandini electorally, aroused an excessive, unwise enthusiasm for the "different future."

Peru's problems (which consecutive governments have been unable to deal with satisfactorily) are as old as its existence, and sufficiently deep-seated to attest to the economic disaster and subversion from which the country is now suffering. If it is possible to turn this country into a democracy, the political forces that aspire to govern it will have to propose how. With elections 9 months away, concrete plans are urgently required.

Among the left, once the differences have been firmly defined, it will be time, especially for Socialist Accord, to devise a platform proposal that will depict its own profile, different from that of PUM-UNIR [Mariateguist Unified Party-National Union of the Revolutionary Left], which it rejects as vanguardist and militarist.

Among the right, there are no brilliant proposals either, because Fredemo's founding document, signed in April, soon evinced its inadequacies, both in its preparation and in the lack of support for all its terms on the part of the front's members.

There are several major issues being debated, issues pertaining to the necessary strategy for making this a viable country.

In the area of the economic model, two issues require attention and proposals: on the one hand, the importance to be given to exports and the domestic market, respectively, and on the other, the significance to be acknowledged for the rural areas, as opposed to the urban areas.

Associated with the strategic definition is the role of the state. What size should it have, what authority and functions, and what relative weight vis-a-vis the society and the private sector?

Finally, a limited discussion has already begun regarding the nature of the next government. Should it be a government of consensus among the country's major political forces, or, on the contrary, should the one elected be authorized to carry out its revolution?

All these issues have already been subjected to some level of discussion. Participating therein have been, essentially, figures from "Libertad," a few from PPC [Popular Christian Party], and, from Popular Action [AP], Jaime de Althaus, a swallow who has not succeeded in livening things up. On the left, Javier Iguiniz has been one of the few active participants in the debate over the long term.

Most of the political leaders that we have observed participating vehemently in the public debate during recent weeks have done so concerning the issue of candidacies, a topic which, when examined carefully, matters more to them than it does to the country.

The fact that so few leaders are participating in depth in the debate is disturbing. And the concern is heightened when one recalls that some of those appearing only to discuss candidates were protagonists in the resounding failure of the AP-PPC government of the first half of this decade.

The voter's legitimate question for them, primarily, but also capable of being applied to all the other leaders, is what new ideas they bring, what fresh plans they have, and what government programs they have in mind for taking the country forward. The large portion of those polled who cast a blank vote reveals that a face or a phrase is insufficient for this electorate.

A growing and explicable skepticism can be overcome only by concrete proposals which, to cite a few examples, must deal with how to make the Congress an effective, useful institution, how to recreate a sound, reliable judicial branch, and how to make the Peruvian university a respectable institution.

The next change cannot be merely one of names. Plans are required, because the country cannot withstand more failures.

* Polls Show Majority Supports Vargas Llosa

33480234b Lima CARETAS in Spanish 3 Jul 89 pp 18-19

[Text] POP [Peruvian Public Opinion Poll] and Imagen polls agree in recording a wave of sympathy for Mario Vargas Llosa and the Libertad Movement since his resignation, as well as the persistence, albeit somewhat reduced, of the concept of Fredemo [Democratic Front].

There is not the slightest room for doubt that Mario Vargas Llosa created a wave of sympathy for himself personally and for the Libertad Movement last week. On Saturday the organization's secretary general, Miguel Cruchaga Belaunde, announced that 15,000 new signatures had been collected. The Libertad lists were circulating successfully in locations such as the Catholic University.

Nevertheless, the phenomenon to some extent attacked the concept of Fredemo, although hopes are being harbored that everything will be put to rights again.

This exclusive POP poll, taken after the resignation, which CARETAS is publishing with another one from Imagen for comparative purposes, confirms these assessments.

The majority of the public does not believe that Vargas Llosa's resignation is definitive, or that Fredemo will disappear (POP and Imagen Tables 1).

Quite a few think that this is an operation on the part of Vargas Llosa to achieve more clout in Fredemo (Table 2).

Rightfully, there are more who blame former President Fernando Belaunde than Luis Bedoya Reyes for the split (Table 3). Imagen finds that only a benevolent 6.6 percent holds Vargas Llosa himself responsible.

Both POP and Imagen agree in finding that IU [United Left] would benefit first, and APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance], second, from a split in Fredemo (Tables 4 of each).

The majority of those polled would like Vargas Llosa to join Fredemo again, or be launched as a Libertad candidate (POP and Imagen Tables 5).

The opinions are divided as to whether Vargas LLosa acted correctly in resigning, or whether he should have sought other alternatives (Tables 6 and 7). Nevertheless, the majority thinks that Fredemo should continue, even without Vargas Llosa (Table 8).

The majority, however, gives him an option as a Libertad candidate (Table 9), and this movement currently has the greatest sympathy in Lima, with 26 percent (Table 10). Last week Datum found that Fredemo led the preferences, with 45 percent (see CARETAS No 1062). Now, Libertad plus PPC [Popular Christian Party] and AP [Popular Action] total 39 percent.

Finally, in the POP poll Vargas Llosa is still outscoring Alfonso Barrantes in voting intention (Table 11), but the advantage has been reduced in comparison with last week's polls.

POP Table 1

Do you believe that Vargas Llosa's resignation is definitive?

Answer	Percentage
Yes, it is definitive	33
No, it is yet to become consolidated	51
Don't know/not familiar	16

Total: 100 percent
Base: Total number of interviews: 895

Imagen Table 1

Do you think that Vargas Llosa's resignation from the Fredemo candidacy means the definitive disappearance of that front, or that it is a temporary problem?

Answer	Percentage
It means Fredemo's definitive disappearance	17.8
It is a temporary problem	70.6
No opinion	11.6

Total: 100 percent
Base: total number of interviews: 241

The majority thinks that the phenomenon is temporary and that, in any case, Fredemo will continue. In both Table 1 polls the low index of undecided on such a subjective issue is notable.

POP Table 2

Which of these reasons mainly influenced Vargas Llosa's resignation?

Answer	Percentage
To achieve more clout in Fredemo	38
Bedoya Reyes' statements	23
AP's insistence on running alone in the municipal elections	20
The party rivalry and jealousy per se	6
Don't know/no opinion	13

Correctly or not, a feint is suspected.

Imagen Table 3

Which person or persons are responsible for Vargas Llosa's resignation?

Answer	Percentage
Belaunde and Bedoya	26.1
Belaunde alone	25.3
Bedoya alone	18.3
Vargas Llosa himself	6.6
Eduardo Orrego	2.5
Other answers	5.3
No answer	27.8
Benevolence toward Mario Vargas Llosa himself	

POP Table 4

Who would benefit most from a split in Fredemo?

Answer	percentage
IU	36
APRA	31
Terrorism	17
Militarism	6
Others	9
Don't know/no opinion	12

Imagen Table 4

Who would benefit from a split in Fredemo?

Answer	Percentage
United Left	31.5
APRA	20.7
No one would benefit	10.0
Belaunde	7.0
The people	6.6
Fredemo's foes	5.4
Bedoya Reyes	4.1
Vargas Llosa	2.5
Other answers	6.2
No answer	11.2

Higher percentages or lower percentages, there is obvious agreement between the polls in the POP Table 4 and the Imagen Table 4, because Imagen's "no one would benefit" quite likely refers to terrorism.

POP Table 5

Vargas Llosa is in Europe. What would you request of him?

Answer	Percentage
That he be a Libertad candidate	37
That he return to Fredemo	29
That he retire from politics	9
Other requests	7
Don't know/no opinion	18

Imagen Table 5

Do you think that Mario Vargas Llosa should...

Answer	Percentage
Reconsider and become the Fredemo candidate again	39.4

Run as a candidate of Libertad and the independents	26.6
Maintain his position and not be a candidate of any party	23.2
No answer	10.8

Between suggestions and predictions, over half of those polled in the POP Table 5 and the Imagen Table 5 want Vargas Llosa to become a candidate for Fredemo or for Libertad again.

Imagen Table 6

Given the circumstances, did Vargas Llosa act correctly in resigning, or should he have sought another alternative?

Answer	Percentage
He acted correctly	53.9
He should have sought alternatives	39.8
No opinion	6.3

Some thought that Mario Vargas Llosa should not have resigned.

Imagen Table 7

An alternative that Vargas Llosa should have sought instead of resigning?

Answer	Percentage
Search for more dialogue	47.9
Wait	16.6
State his positions better/propose solutions	10.4
Seek alliances within Fredemo	6.3
Reflect before having accepted the candidacy	4.2
Consult with the rank and file	3.1
Retain his differences	3.1
Nothing specified	5.2

And they suggested various options.

POP Table 8

Should Fredemo continue without Vargas Llosa?

Answer	Percentage
No	54
Yes	27
Don't know/no opinion	19

Fredemo is still alive.

POP Table 9

Does Vargas Llosa have an option as a candidate of the Libertad Movement?

Answer	Percentage
Yes, he has an option	57
No, has no option	24
Don't know/no opinion	[figure missing]

Mario Vargas Llosa's great option.

POP Table 10

With which political party do you sympthize at present?

Answer	Percentage
Libertad Movement	26
IU	16
APRA	10
Socialist Accord	9
PPC	8
AP	5
Others	2
No opinion/don't know	24

Fredemo advocates are fewer in number.

POP Table 11

If the presidential election were held tomorrow, for which of these candidates would you vote?

Answer	Percentage
Mario Vargas Llosa	33
Alfonso Barrantes	24
Luis Alva Castro	10
Luis Bedoya Reyes	8
Fernando Belaunde	5
Others	2
Don't know/no opinion	18

Vargas Llosa is still clearly in the lead.

* Alva Castro To Begin Presidential Campaign

33480235a Lima EQUIS X in Spanish
26 Jun 89 pp 20-21

[Text] As soon as APRA's [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance] presidential candidate, Luis Alva Castro, returns from his trip to Stockholm, where the Socialist International Congress is taking place, the Campaign National Command will turn over to him a document containing all the planning for the action intended to lead him to the government in the 1990 elections.

Dr Jose Barsallo Burga, national coordinator of the Campaign Command, reportedly received very precise instructions from Alva Castro regarding the urgency with which the campaign plan was to be completed.

But these instructions are claimed not only to have dealt with the traditional mobilization of APRA members and sympathizers, but also to have taken into account the most recent advances in election campaign techniques.

This is because, as the Aprista candidate reportedly declared: "We have to defeat the right which, using its millions, is going to attempt to distort the truth with ad hoc advertising methods devised by experts in the United States."

Thus, it is said that one of the first actions to be taken by Alva Castro upon his return will be to meet with the National Campaign Command.

Nevertheless, the recommendation for resorting to more modern advertising technology does not preclude the mobilization of all the party's forces on behalf of victory in 1990; quite the contrary.The presidential candidate reportedly remarked in this regard that every Aprista, whatever his location or position,, must strive hard to defeat the right.

In this connection, it is claimed in Alfonso Ugarte that President Alan Garcia, in his capacity as an Aprista member, will also do everything to bolster Alva Castro's chances. Reportedly, during the first week of June, the two held a special meeting on the presidential campaign, and also concerning its effect on the municipal campaign.

One of the points that it was desired to stress (as had already been done during Alva Castro's proclamation) was that, whereas both Fredemo [Democratic Front] and United Left [IU] are divided, APRA has maintained and consolidated its unity, even though the opposition has always attempted to pit President Garcia against Luis Alva Castro.

In addition to the campaign plans, last weekend there was great euphoria among the Aprista membership: It was actually being demonstrated that, with Vargas Llosa's resignation from the presidential candidacy, APRA's potential foes are falling apart before the race begins. Of course, the analysts did not fail to note that, if Vargas Llosa's resignation is maintained, it would afford enormous chances for an Alva Castro victory. And things would be even easier for the Aprista candidate if Alfonso Barrantes decides not to run because the unity of United Left has not been restored.

But, as we were told by a close collaborator of Alva Castro, it is not a matter of expecting the best conditions, but rather of deciding to win under any circumstances. To that end, as we remarked in our previous issue, the process of PAP's [Aprista Party of Peru] organizational restructuring and ideological reaffirmation is continuing, even in the absence of Alva Castro.

Meanwhile, from what we were told at Alfonso Ugarte, the National Campaign Command has ordered the formation of departmental and provincial commands all over Peru. Those commands in the outlying parts of the Republic are supposed to be set up by the end of this month.

Furthermore, we were also told that the APRA National Executive Committee is organizing a national plenary for July, at which the guidelines for the campaign will be approved, and various specialized commissions formed.

Since it does not suffice to give an image of party unity, but there must also be a harking back to the effects of the government's erosion, exacerbated by the crisis, the Aprista leaders must seriously examine the urgent need for coping with the crisis, and for consistently reactivating the national economy.

But, according to our sources, that reactivation would get out of hand with the establishment of specific programs aimed at the poorest sectors of our society, intended not only to provide them with food and medicine, but also to solve the unemployment problem. A more extensive, more effective system, of larger scope than PAIT [Temporary Immediate Action Plan], would be created.

The task of dealing with the causes and effects of the crisis must, of course, be carried out by the government, whether or not there are elections. But, in this event, the Aprista candidate would be enabled to surmount the difficult problems stemming from the population's dissatisfaction and the deterioration of the economic situation.

In any case, the Aprista experts claim that Alva Castro's campaign will be concentrated on gaining the support of the low-income sectors. According to a leader very close to Luis Alva Castro, in addition to taking credit for the Economic Congress, "we must also claim our status as a Single Front of Exploited Classes" because, he added: "Here in Peru at the present time, the votes and the national desires lie among the poorest people."

Terrorists Kill Mayor, Rob Bank in La Merced

PY0208125689 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0232 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] La Merced, Peru, 1 Aug (EFE)—La Merced Province police today reported that on 28 July a group of terrorists murdered the mayor and a businessman of Villa Perene.

Police reported that after murdering the two men, the terrorists blew open the vault of the Agrarian Bank and walked out with the equivalent of $20,000.

A spokesman said that a group of hooded men attacked Villa Perene with dynamite in the early morning hours of 28 July. The terrorists gathered the population in the main square and shot Mayor Isaias Aldodarich and businessman Salvador Coronado.

This news only became known on 31 July because of a lack of communication with the distant zone.

La Merced, 450 km east of Lima, is in a state of emergency. The zone is a great producer of coca leaves, raw material for the manufacture of cocaine.

The police reported that six mayors were murdered in various jungle and central hill districts during the month.

According to the police spokesman, at least 550 people—including civilians and military men—died during July as a result of guerrilla activity. So far this year 2,600 people have been killed.

Uruguay

Foreign Minister Returns From Cartagena

PY0208034089 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] The rescheduling of the Mexican foreign debt through the Brady plan establishes an important precedent that will be useful to other Latin American countries. Foreign Minister Luis Barrios Tassano made that statement upon his return to Montevideo after participating in the meeting of the Group of Eight in Cartagena.

The minister first referred to the Latin American governments' concern over drug trafficking.

[Begin recording] [Barrios] A few Latin American countries are obsessed by drug trafficking because it is already causing them problems, and other countries are also concerned about this issue because it is beginning to give them problems. In some way or another, all countries are affected by at least one aspect of drug trafficking, because, as we all know, it not only entails production, but also trafficking and consumption.

[Reporter] Was the implementation of the Brady plan in Mexico analyzed from the political point of view?

[Barrios] Yes. I deliberately brought the subject up by asking the Mexican foreign minister to explain to the other Latin American foreign ministers what had happened with Mexico, because it has established a precedent that will be useful to other Latin American countries. Though each country handles the problem differently, according to its own characteristics, which are not always the same, we nevertheless wanted to know what instruments Mexico had used to solve the foreign debt problem. The Mexican minister gave us a clear explanation; we all took notes and hope to follow the same path and achieve the same result. Mexico has managed to reschedule its debt under excellent and broad terms—specifically, its public debt to private banks. The rescheduling does not include its debt to international organizations or its private debt. [end recording]

UK Envoy on Falklands Sovereignty Issue

PY0208022289 Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 28 Jul 89 p 8

[Excerpt] The new British ambassador to Uruguay, Colum John Sharkey [name as published], yesterday stated that there are no negotiations between Argentina and Great Britain, and he added that "the [Falkland] Islands belong to Great Britain and will continue to belong to Great Britain."

The ambassador yesterday presented his credentials to President Julio Maria Sanguinetti, after which he held a lenghty talk with the press. [passage omitted]

Parties Form Coalition, Nominate Candidates

PY0208025489 Montevideo LA HORA POPULAR in Spanish 25 Jul 89 p 9

[Excerpt] The party for the Government by the People (PGP), the Christian Democratic Party (PDC)—both of which have created the Integration Movement (MI) [Movimiento de Integracion]—and the Civic Union (UC) on 24 July formally created the New Sector [Nuevo Espacio]. This coalition nominated Senator Hugo Batalla as its presidential candidate during a ceremony at the Zelmar Michelini Hall in Congress. Jose M. Quijano and Samuel Lichtensztejn were nominated candidates for vice president and mayor of Montevideo, respectively. [passage omitted]

Venezuela

*Provisions of Draft Organic Labor Law Outlined

33480230a Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 13 Jun 89 p D-6

[Text] To inform our readers, EL NACIONAL is offering a list of the provisions of the draft Organic Labor Law which might eventually have the greatest effect on the Venezuelan labor system. This summary was drafted by a lawyer, Luis Alfredo Araque, a Caracas Chamber of Commerce labor expert.

Basic Standards

1. The rights for which the Labor Law provides enjoy constitutional protection (Article 11).

2. The percentage of Venezuelan workers is increased to 90 percent (previously 75 percent) (Article 26).

3. Any person exercising hierarchic and administrative functions is authorized to represent the employer, and is authorized to answer summonses and respond to sworn interrogatories (Articles 50, 51, 52, and 53).

4. The period of prescription is increased from 6 months to 1 year (Article 61).

Labor Relations

5. Not only those hired as workers and under the orders of the employer, but also anyone who earns his support from another individual, even if he is not subject to his orders, are subject to the Labor Law (an individual in the latter situation is regarded as a worker entitled to benefits) (Articles 65 and 66).

6. The validity of replacement of one employer by another is conditional upon notification of the worker and the trade union. If the worker is not in agreement, he may resign and must be compensated as if he had been unjustly dismissed (Article 95).

7. When a worker is justifiably dismissed for absence from work or omissions or carelessness affecting health or safety, he must be paid half of what he would have received if the dismissal had been without justification (Article 107).

8. Prior notice must be given 2 months in advance after 5 years of service, and 3 months in advance after 10 years (Article 110). Double payment must be made for unjustified dismissal.

9. A letter of dismissal, explaining the reasons, must be provided (Article 111).

10. Employees in management or positions of trust are also entitled to the payment of double indemnity in the event of unjustified dismissal (Article 118).

Compensation

11. If the productivity of an enterprise increases, even if this is due to technological progress, wages must be increased. If productivity declines, there will be no reduction (Article 141).

12. The indexing of wages and prices is established as a goal. It is established that a worker has a right to wage increases if the cost of living increases. This will be effected by means of collective bargaining or by executive branch decrees (Article 142).

13. It is established that the overall wage must be taken into account in calculating days off, vacations, indemnification for dismissal, prior notice, etc. (Article 149).

14. Tips from clients must be taken into account as wages (Article 150).

15. It is not specified that workers on monthly salaries have days off and legal holidays included in those salaries.

16. Payment for work on legal holidays will include an additional 50 percent (Article 158).

17. Overtime work will entail payment of an additional 50 percent (currently 25 percent) (Article 159).

18. Work on the night shift will entail an additional payment of 30 percent (currently 20 percent) (Article 160).

19. The sum of 15 percent of the profits must be distributed, up to a maximum of 6 months' wages, with a minimum of 15 days. If the capital of an enterprise is less than 1 million bolivares, the maximum will be 2 months. If the employer is not in business for profit, the time period he must distribute is 15 days (Article 176).

Labor Conditions

20. The labor week is reduced to 44 hours (previously 48), with 40 hours (previously 42) for night work, and 42 hours (previously 45) for a combination. The difference between workers and employees is eliminated. Three hours of night work are required in order for the labor shift to be regarded as night work (Article 195).

21. The maximum for the labor day in management and security work and positions of trust is reduced from 12 to 11 hours (Article 198).

22. It is prohibited to work more than 100 extra hours per year (currently the maximum is 2 hours in 100 days out of the year) (Article 206).

23. Vacations may extend up to 30 continuous days, based on the seniority of each worker (Article 218).

24. Partial vacations will be calculated at the rate of 2 days per month (currently 1 day per month) (Article 223).

25. The specific provision in Article 96 of the Regulations allowing agreement on group vacations is eliminated.

26. Employers must build camps when they employ more than 500 workers and they work more than 50 km from the nearest settlement (Article 239), and shall be required to provide a first-aid station, a doctor, and a pharmacist for every 400 workers or part thereof over 200 (Article 240).

27. The requirement that a hospital with full services, including surgery, and a basic education school be provided is established for the employers of more than 1,000 workers (Article 242).

28. One scholarship must be provided for every 200 workers (Article 242).

Special Regimes

29. A day and a half off is established for domestic employees, and they are entitled to indemnification for unjustified dismissal (15 days per year) (Articles 274 and 280).

30. Joint owners' responsibility is established for the administrator and the owner of the building in connection with janitors, and the obligation to provide janitors' apartments in residential and office buildings is established (Articles 283 and 290).

31. The percentage of Venezuelans among rural workers is increased to 80 percent (Article 318).

32. It is established that carriers who own their own vehicles and the members of their families who work with them are workers (Article 328).

33. The vehicle owner (even if there are limitations on ownership or it is leased for financial consideration) will be jointly responsible with the employer where transportation workers are concerned (Article 329).

34. Flight crews may only work in excess of the regular labor day if they are given additional days off equal to double the actual flight time (Article 375).

35. The employer is responsible for the maintenance of, fuel for, and insurance on motorized vehicles (Articles 390 and 391).

36. The executive branch may require the employment of handicapped persons (Article 393).

Labor Protection for Mothers and Infants

37. Prior examinations for pregnancy are prohibited (Article 396).

38. Job security for pregnant women is extended for the period of pregnancy and 1 year after childbirth (Article 399).

39. Postnatal leave time is doubled (12 weeks) (Article 400).

40. Employees who adopt a child are allowed 10 weeks leave, and are granted job security for 1 year (Article 402).

41. The requirement that day care centers be provided has been rewritten (Article 408).

Collective Labor Law

42. With the elimination of the distinction between workers and employees, the trade unions must cover both (Article 424).

43. Only one enterprise union is allowed per enterprise (Article 431).

44. Workers who have no employer may be members of professional, industrial, or sectorial unions (Article 432).

45. The number of members of a council of a trade union with job security may be as many as 12 in enterprise unions.

46. Job security is also provided for trade union representatives, based on the number of workers (14 representatives for 1,000 workers, and 28 for 2,000 workers, for example) (Article 465).

47. Job security is provided for workers during trade union elections (Article 466).

48. During labor disputes, the labor inspector is required to process lists of demands immediately, without prior examination (Article 485).

49. Collective disputes by branch of activity are now recognized (Article 504).

50. Strikes are allowed in public services if they will not cause irreparable harm (Article 505).

51. Even though the draft sets forth certain requirements which must be met before a strike is begun, there is no provision for verification and analysis by any authority (Article 506).

52. Solidarity strikes may be held in support of any dispute in any part of the country (Article 511).

53. Strike time counts toward seniority in the enterprise.

54. The possibility of signing collective bargaining agreements with teams of workers who are not union members is eliminated (Article 516).

55. The only possible exception for the application of collective bargaining agreements appears to be for the representatives who discuss and approve the agreement (Article 519).

56. The authority of the labor inspector to submit the establishment of a collective bargaining agreement by branch of activity for arbitration is eliminated, so that if the parties are not reconciled, the only alternative is the strike (Articles 557, 558, and 559).

Labor Disabilities

57. Two contradictory definitions of work-related illnesses are given (Articles 571 and 572).

58. The indemnification amounts for work-related illnesses and accidents are increased.

Management and Labor

59. Employment agencies are authorized to exercise supervision and control over job application publications in the public and private sectors (Article 609).

Worker Representation

60. The number of labor directors in the public sector is increased from one to two, and their appointment is entrusted to the workers union that is the most representative (CTV [Confederation of Venezuelan Workers]). The submission of lists so that the employer can choose from the names proposed is eliminated (Articles 617 and 619).

61. Labor directors enjoy the same benefits as other workers (collective bargaining, etc.), and the same as the other directors. They cannot be removed except by the individuals who appointed them, and they are, therefore, not answerable to the stockholders assemblies. They have trade union rights, and without their summons, the decisions of the council are invalid.

62. The enterprises the public sector sells to the private sector will continue to be subject to those standards pertaining to labor directors (Article 630).

63. Private enterprises which obtain substantial financing from public financial bodies shall have labor directors. This shall also apply if they obtain guarantees.

Penalties

64. Penalties are increased, some to a maximum of 5,000 bolivares and others 10,000 bolivares.

65. A new procedure is established for imposing penalties, and regulations are established for recourse procedures against them (Articles 657 and 658).

66. The national executive branch is given authority to increase monetary fines if the real value of the currency changes (Article 663).

* Business, CTV Disagree on Labor Law

* Fedecamaras' Views

33480230b Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 13 Jun 89 p D-7

[Article by Florencia Tovar R.: "Fedecamaras Protests Labor Law in Congress"]

[Text] The leadership of the business sector, represented by Fedecamaras [Venezuelan Federation of Associations and Chambers of Commerce and Industry] and Coindustria [Venezuelan Council of Industry], presented their comments on the proposed Organic Labor Law to the Congress yesterday. The proposal was drafted by former President Rafael Caldera and is to be approved this coming 5 July, before the legislative body adjourns.

Those present to represent the business sector were Hugo Fonseca Viso, president of Fedecamaras, and Eddo Polesel and Nelson Belfort, vice president and treasurer, respectively, of this leading business organization. Also present were Ernesto Navarro Ruiz, president of Coindustria; Antonio Herrera-Vaillant, treasurer of that union organization; and Oscar Machado K., former president of the Venezuelan Association of Executives (AVE).

The basic points of conflict described in the document submitted by the business leaders have to do with economic subordination, the suggestion concerning possible wage indexing, protection, all of the articles referring to mass strikes, and the provisions pertaining to the obligation to establish hospitals and schools for those enterprises with more than 1 thousand workers.

In his explanation to the parliamentarians serving on the Bicameral Commission of Congress headed by Luis Enrique Oberto, which is studying the draft Organic Labor Law, Hugo Fonseca Viso said that the suggestions of the business sector must have had no more than a hearing, because they have not been incorporated into that legislative text.

He said that Venezuela will never move forward unless we devote ourselves to the training of our human resources, and the business sector is prepared to do this. Moreover, he said, we must not spend so much money in this country to educate learned holders of the baccalaureate who are useless from the point of view of productivity. He believes that it is unjust for a father to exert great effort for 11 years or so in order to send his children to school if after that period of time they are not capable of entering the labor market. He also spoke about social security and its inefficiency.

"We are ready for you (the parliamentarians) to bring forth a proposal which makes it possible to increase production and to train the Venezuelan citizen to produce. We know, and the people in the CTV [Confederation of Venezuelan Workers] also know, that when a person is trained his income may grow. We want this law to be a tool for achievement, rather than having it be the most advanced legal text in the labor sector anywhere in the world, but negative in terms of the domestic productive apparatus."

He added that what must not be allowed is a labor law which continues to create mistrust and adds further damage to what has already been happening in the economic sector.

It is basic, in the view of the president of Fedecamaras, for this law to provide a framework for labor relations in which the businessmen and the workers should be left

free to achieve understanding. A law which will restrict the initiative of the private and labor sectors should not be approved. "The intention is to bring about understanding and to move the country forward," he said.

Among other things, the businessmen's document proposes the elimination of Article 504, which deals with the possibility of extending a collective dispute to an entire branch of activity. The businessmen also believe that women who give birth should have labor stability for 6 months, rather than 1 year, as the proposal under discussion provides.

At the conclusion of the meeting with the congressional commission, this business leader said that it had been positive, and he is certain that this time, the concerns of the businessmen will indeed be taken into account.

Much Misinformation

The parliamentarians serving on this commission agreed that there has been misinformation about or misinterpretation of what the draft Labor Law calls for. Something which was clarified was that at no time has there been any discussion about implementing wage indexing, as the businessmen have said there was.

They said that the draft is sensible and moderate, and that it is not a copy of any foreign text, but rather reflects Venezuelan peculiarities. In no way is it fascist, as an effort has been made to suggest.

In this connection, Ernesto Navarro took the floor and said that the reason he was meeting there with this commission was that he and his colleagues did not believe that their comments had been taken into account. He also said that it was important to bear in mind that if the lawyers affiliated with the business sector misinterpreted what the Labor Law really would do, this means that the Congress should reflect before approving such a legal text, which might lend itself to much confusion and many labor problems.

* CTV Responds to Criticism

33480230b Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish
21 Jun 89 p D-9

[Article by Omar Lugo: "CTV Says Fedecamaras Forgot 27 February"]

[Text] The acting president of the CTV [Confederation of Venezuelan Workers], Gaston Vera, has insisted that the business sector, Fedecamaras [Venezuelan Federation of Associations and Chambers of Commerce and Industry] in particular, has been very quick to forget the desperate demand which the people made manifest by the events of 27 February, and the fact that the workers have their own resources, as was evidenced on 18 May with the national workers strike. As a result, he believes that "the intensive campaign to prevent approval of the new Labor Law is imprudent and ill-considered.

"Fedecamaras acted like a cave dwellers' society, showing primitivism in its denial of the systematic social advance of the workers and its use of every recourse available to it in an attempt to crush approval of this law, which is designed to govern worker-management relations in an honest fashion, but with a deep social content," this leader reiterated as he presented a list of demands clarifying the most controversial clauses.

"The greatest attribute of this law is that it clearly defines worker-management relations, is a tool for the workers' defense, and corrects a series of long-standing shortcomings in the existing legislation. It also incorporates in the legal norm a complex of advances achieved in recent years through collective bargaining."

The Principles Attacked

Among the practices endorsed by the new law, job stability for women during the first year of motherhood has been one of those most frequently attacked. Vera says that this principle is already contemplated in Article 218 of the Regulations on the Labor Law, which makes protection throughout the entire gestation period possible. He explains that the issue is the protection of children and working mothers, and, taking into account the fact that women represent an important contingent of the country's work force, their job stability during a period as overwhelmingly important as motherhood is guaranteed.

Another of the articles rejected by Fedecamaras, Vera goes on to say, is that pertaining to job stability. All that is involved, however, is the incorporation in the new Labor Law of certain provisions already in effect in the Law Against Unjustified Dismissals. He explains that in the original text written by the author of the draft, Rafael Caldera, the revocation of this law and replacement of it by special compensation was recommended. The CTV, for its part, and the other central trade unions which participated in the Bicameral Commission's discussion, unanimously favored incorporating this guarantee of job stability for the workers in the Labor Law.

However, there are some major advances. The tripartite commissions on the first level are eliminated and are replaced by a job stability inspector. Also, a series of provisions is included to guarantee both employers and workers speedy proceedings, and to avoid what has happened in practice—the failure of these commissions to function because neither the labor nor the business representatives have carried out their duties. As a result, all of the work of investigating and ruling on the cases has fallen to the individuals heading the commissions, and for this reason the processes have been very slow.

"As to the productivity question," Vera says, "there has been an effort to distort the facts, with the statement that the new law works against this. In reality, this is not so. Instead it encourages productivity, with the granting of

special compensation consistent with the worker's productivity. The CTV rejects the elimination of this clause, as Fedecamaras urges, because it is consistent with Article 73 of the Labor Law now in effect, which sets forth the principle of just wages.

In connection with the article pertaining to economic subordination and employer-worker relations, he says that there is a false business interpretation which claims that this clause means that workers not on contract will become socioeconomically dependent on the enterprise involved, for example a street vendor in relation to the company publishing a newspaper. "The workers who do not receive detailed assignments from an official of the enterprise involved, and who do not work on a regular contract basis, do not benefit from this clause. Title II, which governs labor relations, is of overwhelming importance, because it substitutes a concept of a labor contract of an eminently civil nature, and gives this relationship a broad and progressive interpretation. This standard would allow many workers, for whom contracts have been simulated, or to whom the benefits of the law do not apply, to defend and obtain the rights and the protection provided by social law within this broad concept." He insists that the labor relations concept, linked with that of economic dependence, will lead to more protection and coverage by the public order provisions of the Labor Law for those who provide personal services and obtain from them the sole income on which they subsist.

* Law Considered Inflationary

33480230b Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish
19 Jun 89 p D-9

[EL NACIONAL Interview with attorney Luis Alfredo Araque by correspondent Wilmer Ferrer; date and place not given]

[Text] The draft of the Organic Labor Law approved following its first discussion in the Chamber of Deputies has led to unusual activity in the private productive sector of the country. The businessmen feel that the way in which it was drafted and submitted to the Congress for consideration excludes any possibility of growth and recovery from the crisis in which the country is involved, while at the same time giving the CTV [Confederation of Venezuelan Workers] power and authority never imagined before, which the businessmen are not prepared to accept.

The analyses of the economic impact the draft law would have on the industrial and trade sectors, if it is approved as submitted to the highest legislative body in the country, have led to many consultations with legal and economic advisers in the industrial and trade sectors, since although the opinions of these sectors were heard by the Bicameral Commission which drafted the final version of the proposal, "they were not included in the text."

"We cannot overlook the fact that the economic situation in Venezuela is not one of prosperity, but critical instead, since the country is proposing a reduction in its income and a reduction in its foreign debt, although the international reserves have been exhausted," Luis Alfredo Araque points out. He is a lawyer who has handled all of the private dealings of the industrialists with the Bicameral Commission, and he has also had occasion to initiate a series of meetings and talks with those in the production sector to inform them of what his analyses indicate could lead to a new Organic Labor Law in the future.

Aware of the implications the new law might have for the national productive apparatus, the Caracas Chamber of Commerce hired the services of the Araque, Reyna, De Jesus, Sosa, Viso, and Pittier Legal Consultants firm. They reported on the innovations in the draft law, and when its contents were made known, a visit was paid to Rafael Caldera, the author of the new legal text, to set forth to him the arguments outlined by the businessmen. Caldera asked the Chamber to assign an adviser to attend the bicameral sessions at which the draft proposal would be revised and the opinions of the various sectors heard.

The man appointed was Araque, "and as an adviser, I was present during all of the discussions of the Bicameral Commission. We were allowed to speak, but not to vote, and the suggestions made by the private sector were not included in the new text."

Therefore, Araque says, it has been claimed that the private sector has not been involved with the law, which is very far from reality. Between 30 and 40 persons belong to the Bicameral Commission, including advisers and parliamentarians, and they participated in the discussions which culminated in the current proposal. It incorporates the suggestions made by Caldera and some of the parliamentarians in the CTV and their advisers.

Timeliness of the Law

Araque says that one of the first things to be clarified is whether the moment is the right one for approving any draft labor law which introduces radical changes into the labor conditions in the country. In his opinion, the solution must necessarily point toward an increase in production and the search for new sources of wealth, other than oil, which is no longer sufficient either to meet the nation's commitments or to make up the country's production deficit.

"With these new developments, we would in the future have to export in order to improve the balance of payments, and then import what is going to be needed, for a long time."

[EL NACIONAL] One of the arguments put forth by the trade union leadership is better distribution of wealth.

[Araque] The basic problem in the country is not that wealth is poorly distributed. It is that there is no wealth. First it is necessary to produce it, in order then to distribute it, because we do not gain anything by distributing among ourselves the poverty which, except for the oil industry, is the only thing there is to share in Venezuela.

[EL NACIONAL] Do you believe that there is no wealth in the country?

[Araque] In my statement I may have perhaps exaggerated somewhat, but the wealth we have does not sufficiently meet the country's needs. If it did, we would have the wherewithal to pay the debt, sufficient goods and services to meet the requirements of the people would be produced, we would have no need to import, and the balance of payments would be positive. The fact is that there are not enough enterprises in existence, apart from the fact that those we have reveal an intrinsic weakness.

[EL NACIONAL] Would the proposal lead toward further weakening?

[Araque] In one way, the proposal is inflationary. In other words, it tends to place the burden of the shortage of wealth in the country on public and private enterprise. If these enterprises were in a position to bear these increases, by being based in a solid and expanding economy, I would have no objection to this being done, because I truly believe that wealth should be distributed. Its purpose is to allow all Venezuelan citizens to live better, but obviously this is not achieved by a labor law, but by creating more assets and producing more services. We have fallen into a logical trap in our thinking, because of the belief that by modifying a law in which a series of benefits is provided, the problem of the lack of production can be resolved.

He added that "if a new labor law does not lead us to have more enterprises, to the production of more things, and to more work for us Venezuelans, and if the population does not make a greater effort than at present, we are doomed to failure by a simple, practically physical law, quite irrespective of the labor legislation we have."

The Management Failure

[EL NACIONAL] Doesn't a part of the low productivity problem lie in the management failures in our national enterprise sector?

[Araque] Obviously there is some of this, because shortcomings have existed in all sectors of the country. But there is a structural weakness in the Venezuelan economy, because it made an artificial transition from being very poor, based mainly on agricultural production, to a developed country's economy, not by virtue of producing more goods and having more enterprises, but by virtue of the fact that an asset produced by a few individuals became much more valuable on the international market. This brought in an avalanche of oil dollars, thus creating a sensation of wealth, but it was not based on labor. It was based only on a product which generated a large volume of foreign exchange.

Araque argues that the Venezuelan citizen believes, to some extent, that there is no need to work first in order then to have wealth, because the way things have been in the past 50 years, we have had wealth without the need to produce it. An awareness of the need for work in order to obtain assets is widespread in the countries with developed economies, where the people save and invest because of this awareness.

[EL NACIONAL] Is the opposite true, perhaps, in Venezuela?

[Araque] This awareness is not to be found in the Venezuelan. And a labor law will not improve this. On the contrary, the message being sent to the Venezuelan citizen is that needs exist, but the solution is not to work more or produce more, but to amend a law so that those who have something, in one way or another, will surrender it and share it. This means sharing a little of the poverty which is what in fact characterizes the Venezuelan economy, because basically, our enterprises are producing nothing. The automotive enterprises do assembly work and the food enterprises import all of their supplies, so that what we really contribute to production is very little.

The reporter made a comment to the effect that it was the enterprises which benefited from the avalanche of dollars, and not the workers, as a result of which the law is designed to claim a little for the workers and employees.

Our interlocutor responded that this is not the case.

[EL NACIONAL] How is it, then?

[Araque] In general, Venezuela has reaped the benefits of its great oil wealth. If the situation of the worker before the oil era is compared with that at present, it really cannot be said that the oil wealth did not reach the workers. Today, many low-level workers have access to a certain type of goods. There is something more important which people do not think about—the situation of the person who does not work. One of Venezuela's problems is that the mass of persons engaged in work and maintaining the rest of the population is very small.

He said that the country has some 19 million inhabitants, of whom more than half are minors, while another portion is over 60. This means that this portion is not producing anything, but is consuming services, goods, food, housing, education, and health care. If the rest of the productive population is considered, a part of it is employed in the home, which reduces the number of products put on the market, while yet another portion is unemployed.

What remains is one-fourth or one-fifth of the people working, theoretically.

"But at what are they working? The great majority of these people are engaged in the trade sector. Others are in services and still others are government employees, and a very small percentage is engaged in the manufacturing and farm sectors. These are the workers who really introduce new wealth into the economy. This causes a great distortion of the economy, for which reason there is no way excesses will not occur, and when they do, the people will not be able to eat that day, because three-quarters of the population have nothing to do."

He explained that none of these problems has anything to do with a labor law.

[EL NACIONAL] I would like you to go into more detail about why the draft law is inflationary.

[Araque] The proposal contains a series of standards which tend to increase the compensation of employed persons without increasing the wealth brought into the economy, and that in itself is inflationary. Currency is a representation of an exchange value, not wealth in itself. Therefore, to the extent that there is real wealth, more goods and more services, the currency is solid, and when it is introduced into the economy artificially, without corresponding goods and services, to that extent these things become more costly, while the people are no richer.

[EL NACIONAL] But the businessmen are complaining that demand has declined. They are producing, but there is no purchasing power. How can it be increased if the income of the worker is not improving?

[Araque] No. What happens is that certain mechanisms have to begin to function here. The economy has been stagnating for a long time, and I would say that the government measures are oriented toward this—so that at a certain time, these mechanisms will begin to move, and when more goods are produced, prices must drop, or otherwise recourse to exports will be necessary.

[EL NACIONAL] The businessmen are complaining about the draft labor law, the tariff reform, the letters of credit, and the shortage of foreign exchange. What is needed, then?

[Araque] One of the worst errors, from the logical point of view, is to think that the interests of the businessmen and those of the workers clash, because the two live off the same thing.

[EL NACIONAL] However, what the criticisms and the comments of the businessmen suggest seems to indicate that they are opposed to increasing workers' benefits.

[Araque] That is not true.

[EL NACIONAL] What is the truth about their comments?

[Araque] The truth is that it is necessary to strengthen business, and this cannot be done except within a healthy economy. The other way is to put the bank note machine into operation, which does not mean increasing purchasing power. This would damage everyone's status, and no one would gain.

Araque said that there were very few economic advisers on the Bicameral Commission. Lawyers like him who "normally know very little of economics" predominated. It is believed that Caldera was thinking more as a jurist than on the basis of the possible economic situations which could be caused by the draft law.

"No one has really assessed the economic scope of the law, which is not only designed to regulate rights and duties, but which in addition will have an effect on the mechanisms of the economy, which has its own laws."

[EL NACIONAL] What strategy will the private sector pursue to prevent approval of the draft in the Congress?

[Araque] What is needed is an appeal to general good sense. It is not that the private sector is opposing a new law, but that the country cannot tolerate a substantial change of this nature. It must be understood that the period of easy wealth in Venezuela is over. I would ask the members of Congress to look through the economic implications contained in the proposal, to assess what will happen in Venezuela, and to consider whether this suits the country. For according to what I have seen, this does not suit the country, given the current circumstances.

He concluded his evaluation by saying:

"If the proposal could improve the situation of the workers and generate jobs, it would be a blessing for all. But regrettably, this is not what is going to happen, because it would, instead, set us on the path of the inflationary economies. It would plunge us further into the short-sighted solutions adopted in the Southern Cone, which have ended in the most complete failure. We are not beginning to adopt the solutions of the economies of the Pacific nations, but rather those of the nations which have failed."

* Attorney General on Human Rights Violations

33480228a Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 20 Jun 89 pp D-1, D-4

[EL NACIONAL interview with Attorney General Ramon Escovar Salom by correspondent Ada Urribarri; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] "In Venezuela human rights are violated frequently, and we have a very bad reputation in this sense abroad. It is necessary to say this frankly." Attorney General Ramon Escovar Salom made this statement

after a short meeting which he held on 19 June with Eduardo Fernandez. The attorney general repeated his intention of defending human rights.

He stated: "I am going to give priority to that area. I have already invited Amnesty International to visit us and tell us about the way in which they see the development of human rights in Venezuela. I consider that human rights are violated here with great frequency. That situation is clear to me because our country does not have a good, international reputation in that sense."

[EL NACIONAL] Will you investigate matters related to the "El Amparo" affair?

[Escovar Salom] All cases brought to the Office of the Attorney General will be legally processed. Democracy must be transparent. There is no alternative. Otherwise, there is no democracy. [passage omitted]

Attorney General Ramon Escovar Salom was asked about the reasons for his visit to the secretary general of COPEI [Social Chri[illegible]n Party]. Escovar Salom indicated that no partic[illegible]matter had been discussed and that the visit was a [illegible] of the program which he was following of meeting [illegible]th the former presidents of all political parties and other political leaders. This series of visits is being made in view of the need to maintain continuing communications with various areas of national life.

He stated: "I came for a conversation with the secretary general of COPEI on certain matters which I consider very important. I believe that the most influential elements in a modern democracy are communications and interaction between the various elements of the political system.

"For that reason, and just as I have talked with the former presidents and with leaders of all of the political parties, I also wanted to say thank you to Eduardo Fernandez, not only for the vote which COPEI gave me in so enthusiastic a way and for the support which he continues to give me, but also for the personal praise which he expressed at the time of my nomination."

[EL NACIONAL] Did you reach agreement on some subject in particular?

[Escovar Salom] We agreed to continue with an ongoing and informal conversation as often as may be necessary. We did not talk about any specific matter, neither the Recadi [National Preferential Exchange Office] affair nor anything else. This was a general visit and my first contact with COPEI, which is an essential party in the functioning of Venezuelan democracy.

I have many personal friends in this party, even though I am not a member of it, and they always receive me very well.

No Pressure

When the reporter commented to the attorney general on the enormous responsibilities which constitutional standards attribute to the public prosecutor and on the pressures to which he might possibly be subjected in view of the cases of corruption which are under investigation, Escovar Salom stated that he "will defend the independence of the Office of the Attorney General."

He continued: "The Office of the Attorney General is an institution to which the Constitution has given very broad powers. There are many untested areas in it which must be further developed. The effective functioning of the democratic system is impossible without an efficient public prosecutor and without an attorney general who has the independence and personality to develop the independence of his office without consideration of party influences or specific interests."

He added: "I propose to keep my head serene and clear and to handle matters with the necessary equanimity, because the attorney general is also, according to the Constitution, a mediator in a conflict with the administration and private interests."

[EL NACIONAL] Now that you have been in office for several days, what is your impression of what you have found in the Office of the Attorney General?

[Escovar Salom] I do not wish to speak about my predecessor, but I can say that the Office of the Attorney General is going through a critical situation. [passage omitted]

* Leandro Mora Denies Threat of Coup

33480228b Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 19 Jun 89 p D-2

[Interview with leading AD member Reinaldo Leandro Mora by Ludmila Vinogradoff; date and place not given]

[Text] Reinaldo Leandro Mora, a Democratic Action [AD] leader, dismissed any possibility of a coup d'etat and denied existing rumors in this connection.

Leandro Mora went to visit Gonzalo Barrios and at the door of his residence was questioned by the press in connection with the situation affecting promotions and retirements of military officers.

He replied: "In the Committee on Defense of Congress we were able to conclude that the officers in question met the conditions required to lead to a favorable report. Clearly, as always happens, there was some speculation on this matter, and some comments were made. However, within the committee, work went on in a cordial way. There was information available on each one of the cases, both from the senior officers in the armed forces as

well as from the Ministry of Defense. All of this information, in turn, was subjected to a series of questions in our efforts in the committee to evaluate their qualifications."

He said that the committee found, from year to year, that the situation affecting the armed forces was improving. He added: "The officers attend advanced courses on technical matters and general cultural affairs. This kind of comment is heard every year."

[EL NACIONAL] Then why has President Perez met suddenly with the top leaders of COPEI [Social Christian Party] and the AD?

[Leandro Mora] I think that the president meets frequently with those leaders, as he meets with representatives of the workers and of management. I think that there is no reason to be alarmed. Each time that promotions are announced there is always this kind of speculation.

[EL NACIONAL] Then there is no danger of a coup?

[Leandro Mora] I think that this stage in our history is completely over. The Venezuelan military have been the fundamental factor in the progress made by the country in incorporating them into civilian life. Without a doubt they have been one of the principal factors in the building of democracy.

[EL NACIONAL] But people speak of unrest in the Armed Forces.

[Leandro Mora] In that sense it is exaggerated. The committee worked on other areas which had nothing to do with promotions, such as social matters, housing, and unit supply. All of these matters are being evaluated at this time. We have received full cooperation from the Ministry of Defense and we can say that any problems which might exist from that point of view are being resolved.

[EL NACIONAL] If General Alliegro retires, can he continue as minister of defense?

[Leandro Mora] Any person appointed by the president who meets the condition of being of legal age can be minister of defense, whether he is a civilian or a military officer.

* Vivas Teran Criticizes COPEI Leadership

33480228c Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish
9 Jun 89 p D-14

[Interview with COPEI Deputy Abdon Vivas Teran by correspondent Ada Urribarri; date and place not given]

[Text] For Abdon Vivas Teran, candidate for the post of secretary general of COPEI [Social Christian Party], the style and substance of the policy of opposition followed by Eduardo Fernandez and the National Directorate of the party require "an immediate change," because it is allegedly committing the same error as in the past.

The COPEI leader said that there is serious "danger for the party," which he sees as being displaced by the political forces of the Left or of the aristocratic Right, "such as the New Democratic Generation" [NGD].

He continued: "The rank and file members of COPEI and national public opinion have the impression that the opposition to the government party of President Carlos Andres Perez is not up to the job at the moment. The rank and file members of the party have the impression that Eduardo Fernandez is repeating the error which we already committed with regard to former President Jaime Lusinchi, whom the campaign headquarters under Eduardo Fernandez and himself, when he was a candidate, systematically refused to attack.

"In my view," he said, "this is a dangerous situation for COPEI, because for the first time we are being displaced by the coming forces, either of the socialist Left or forces for change, such as the MAS [Movement Toward Socialism], or forces of the Right, authoritarian and aristocratic, such as the NGD."

A Change at the Tiller

In the view of the deputy from Trujillo, it is essential to broaden the dialogue within the party and before the country in order to develop a new opposition line.

He said: "I wish that Eduardo Fernandez understood the need for change in this connection. Therefore I call on him in the name of the rank and file of COPEI not to insist on dogmatic positions regarding opposition policy and to change that policy."

He continued: "In any case, as the process of selecting our leaders and making a basic change in the political direction of the party is now open, I believe that within 2 months COPEI will have a new secretary general with a new vision of what the opposition should be."

[EL NACIONAL] Would you take that initiative for change if you were elected?

[Vivas Teran] That is one of the most important tasks which I will perform as secretary general. I am going to confront the Democratic Action [AD] party thoroughly and fundamentally as well as the package of economic measures adopted by President Perez, until we achieve a COPEI victory in 1993.

The secretary for organization says that there is nothing wrong and that never before was there more and better information for an internal party elections process, in addition to accusing us of following a strategy aimed at preventing that process from taking place.

[EL NACIONAL] In your view, what is the strategy followed by Eduardo Fernandez?

[Vivas Teran] The campaign headquarters of Eduardo Fernandez is following a strategy of making the internal election process as little noticed as possible. He wants this process to have as little participation, to be as far from being open, and to be as limited as they can arrange.

More Errors by Fernandez

Continuing with his criticism of the errors committed by Eduardo Fernandez and his campaign headquarters in leading the party, Vivas Teran pointed out that the strategy for the election of new officers "constitutes another serious error, since no one can deny to the rank and file of the party the knowledge of the things which unite us and those which separate us, which are significant."

He said: "Among those things I can point out our views on the opposition, our ideological nuances, our differences regarding the package of measures introduced by President Perez, and the way in which we both think of unity. And on all of these things I invite Eduardo Fernandez to enter into a dialogue, so that the rank and file of COPEI will know what to expect from us."

Vivas Teran spoke from his campaign headquarters. While he was presenting his analysis to EL NACIONAL, his associates (Agustin Berrios and Hermann Luis Soriano, among others) were studying each one of the speeches made by Ildemaro Martinez in order to prepare an appropriate answer and to refute what was said by the campaign headquarters of Eduardo Fernandez.

[EL NACIONAL] That dialogue of which you speak was already planned by Eduardo Fernandez, particularly in order to hurt the party as little as possible in the eyes of the public.

[Vivas Teran] I have the greatest interest in being careful of the structure, the objectives, and the ideology of the COPEI. I feel that COPEI has lost a great deal of ground while Eduardo Fernandez has been secretary general. We have had three election defeats in a row, and Fernandez has been unable to prevent them. We have not convinced the country that we are the ethical, political, programatic, and ideological choice for the people. We must make a great effort to rescue COPEI in all of its dimensions.

Consequently, none of my actions during this campaign has sought to reduce the potential of the organization but rather to strengthen it. I am ready to hear the views which Eduardo Fernandez may wish to express. The only thing is that he, for some reason which I have not been able to understand, has something like a baseless fear of engaging in a dialogue with me. However, it is a good thing that you cannot hide us from the eyes of the country. I think that the strategy of Eduardo Fernandez of hiding under the table cannot work. It is an error.

They Want to Surround Me

In response to the questions about the damage which he is reportedly causing COPEI with his accusations about the organization and the interests, presumably personal, which Fernandez is reportedly serving, Vivas Teran stated that what Fernandez has sought "is to have an absolute advantage."

He stated: "I appreciate that the Fernandez headquarters and Eduardo Fernandez himself must stop the political activity which I am engaged in. However, I also feel that they are following a path by which they hope, unsuccessfully, to surround me. At this time the truth is that they are planning a campaign of giving Eduardo Fernandez an absolute advantage in dealing with my aspirations.

"For example, the CEN [National Executive Council] is working in favor of Fernandez, in the same way as other institutions of the party are doing. The Directorate of Organization is working in the same way. No doubt things have gone so far as to allege that I am going into an internal party conflict with a list of dreadful errors and terrible vices. Therefore, once again I call on him to go into the fight under conditions of equality. That is the only thing that I ask. Let him set aside the advantages of his position, let him prevent some of his friends from exploiting his advantages, and let him come to compete with me on a level playing field."

An Obstacle to Progress

Without trying to make any detailed comments on the analysis which the National Committee of COPEI presented in the past on the decline in membership which has been taking place in the party, Vivas Teran put the decline in figures (35 percent). He spoke of the need for COPEI "to restore its values, its popularity, its unity, and its progressive ideological stance not tied to neoliberal currents of thought, or simply its modernizing outlook."

Vivas Teran said: "My bottom line can be that 35 percent. However, my ceiling is simply victory. Nevertheless, the strategy which Eduardo Fernandez is following of keeping this internal elections process away from the participation and involvement of the rank and file of the party, and the real situation facing the country bring me to the painful perception that the levels of abstention are going to be very high. I predict that about 90 percent of the members of COPEI will not vote. This should serve as a spur to open up this party election process."

[EL NACIONAL] Would it be possible for you to renounce your aspirations?

[Vivas Teran] This is the last great discovery which they are making in one of those laboratories of counter propaganda which Eduardo Fernandez has. I will fight to the end. I think that it is my duty to the party and to the rank and file membership of COPEI, those who, I know, do not like to have Eduardo Fernandez as secretary general of the party. They may want him in other positions, because they understand that his position represents a double danger. The first danger is for himself in his other aspirations, and the second danger is for the leadership of the party. During these past 10 years COPEI has clearly declined as a social and political force. As long as he is secretary general, we will not be able to elect a COPEI president in the future.

We have lost ground where we were operating on our own terrain of Social Christian thought, by making the party pragmatic and by not defining an opposition policy with precision. We have lost ground. I understand and have stated that we must unify the opposition to straighten it out, in accordance with the expectations of the rank and file of the party and the country.

For the good of the party, in view of the present lack of clarity, I consider that for the good of the party Eduardo Fernandez must abandon his position as secretary general. He should let others of us lead the process of recovery and think of other objectives which could take hold and not continue to be an obstacle to the development of COPEI as an institution in the Venezuelan community. He should not be an obstacle to the program of communications which COPEI must have with the country.

*** Police Abuse Raises Population's Concern**
33482016a Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish
30 May 89 p A-4

[Editorial by Allan R. Brewer-Carias: "Beware of the Police!"]

[Text] Police activity, besides being of the type that traditionally typifies the state, is perhaps the most important and essential of all those carried out by the society's political organization. The grounds for it lie in Article 43 of the Constitution, which stipulates:

"Everyone has a right to the free development of his personality, without limitations other than those derived from the rights of others, and public and social order."

Hence, it is the purpose of police activity:

First, to reconcile the rights of individuals with one another, so that the exercise of rights by each individual does not harm the exercise of rights by others; and, second, more importantly, to reconcile the rights of individuals with the collective or general interest of society, so that the exercise thereof by each individual will not harm the interests of all.

The task incumbent on the police authorities to whom society has entrusted those delicate functions is therefore essential and extremely important to daily life.

To attain these goals it is obviously indispensable for those authorities to inspire confidence and to be a source of protection for the citizen. In a civilized society the policeman must be the "caretaker" of everyone, the "protector" of the citizens and their rights, and hence, the representative of the state's authority, to whom respect is due. In short, the policeman must be the official in whom one can and must trust blindly, because he represents a benevolent, impartial, and just authority who inspires security and protection, who will not act against the one seeking him for protection, and who, when a person's arrest must occur for reasons of public order, is also certain to respect the person arrested. As the International Pact on Civil and Political Rights (Law of 1978) declares: "Every person deprived of freedom will be treated humanely and with due respect for the dignity inherent in human beings" (Art. 10).

Hence, it would be clearly inconceivable to think that a society could function normally if the policeman were a discriminatory, abusive, wicked, or depraved monster. There could not be any public security, peace of mind, wholesomeness, or morality, the protection of which the police are seeking, precisely, as an activity aimed at maintaining public order. In a strange situation such as that, no one could trust the police, and trust, in Spanish, means only "hoping in, "having confidence in," "counting on," "relying on," "putting oneself in the hands of," "throwing oneself into the arms of," "commending oneself to."

But here and now, in our country, there is happening what would be inconceivable in any civilized, democratic society. We are increasingly believing and trusting less in the police, and the latest news in the press, besides evoking anger, has prompted us, with full responsibility, to have to recommend to the citizens that they beware of the police most of all. And as an example to warrant this absurd recommendation the two tragedies recently reported by the press, which we must recall, will suffice. First: a young woman is assaulted and left beaten, at night, in the street; she calls for help and a trusted neighbor summons the police; a patrol arrives to "help"; they pick up the young woman, take her to the El Recreao Headquarters, and there rape and humiliate her. No one in his right mind could understand such torture committed in the name of authority! Second: three foreigners try to travel to the interior by bus; at the bus terminal a policeman stops them, presumes that their passports are forged, detains them, and harasses and abuses them at will. Unquestionably, neither they nor anyone in his right mind could understand this outrage, also committed in the name of the police, either!

How embarrassing to have to recommend that foreigners who take a notion to visit our country should beware of the police most of all! What an absurd tragedy to have to

recommend that our children beware of the police! In this case, generalization is necessary. It suffices that a single policeman commit such an outrage for us to have to mistrust the entire corps, because according to the "law of large numbers" there would be another policeman who was a social misfit, ready to attack. So, beware of the police, while the state's reformers, surely misfits also, concern themselves merely with political reforms in which no one believes any longer, instead of considering the protection of human dignity by making the police a trustworthy corps.

Suriname

Sital Meets With Venezuelan Military Officials

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[Text] Commander Badressein Sital of the military authority has during a recent visit to Venezuela held discussions with top officials of the Venezuelan Armed Forces. The purpose of this visit was to strengthen the relations between the Venezuelan Armed Forces and Suriname National Army. Commander Sital has met, among others, with the chief of the general staff and (?half) of the national and military intelligence service. He has informed the leadership of the Venezuelan Army about the Kourou Accord and explained the standpoint of the military authority on this matter.

National Assembly To Comment on Kourou Accord

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[Text] The National Assembly will in a public meeting give its opinion about the Kourou Accord. The meeting will be held after the standpoint of the government on this matter is made known. The standpoint will be made known tonight by President Ramsewak Shankar in a radio and television broadcast.

Over the past few days the government has been exchanging ideas about the content of the accord with different social groupings. In an interview with the daily DE WARE TIJD, Assembly Chairman Jaggernath Lachmon said this is a good move by the government because different groups will be involved in the execution of the accord. Lachmon declared that he had not expected the reaction by the military authority. According to him, the accord doesn't violate the Constitution. The Front [for Democracy and Development] leader is of the opinion that the government can't reject the accord unless there is a better alternative.

Trade Unions Want Accord Changed

FL0208235589 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] The four trade union federations, the C-47 [Centrale 47], the CLO [Central Organization for Civil Service Employees], De Moederbond [General Confederation of Trade Unions], and the PWO [Progressive Workers Organization] are of the opinion that the Kourou Accord should be changed.

The trade union federations made this known yesterday during a meeting with President Ramsewak Shankar. C-47 Chairman Fred Derby told our newsroom that the four trade union federations will issue a statement in which their standpoint will be explained.

Meanwhile, the two employers associations, the Association of Surinamese Manufacturers and the Trade and Industry Association, along with the Police Union have expressed their support for the Kourou Accord. All three organizations are of the opinion that the accord is a good basis for an eventual declaration of peace.